

THE  
Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XVI.—NEW SERIES, No. 432.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1854.

[PRICE 6d.]

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Spa-fields—Rev. T. E. Thoresby	.. .. .	10	0	0
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Mr. Mitchell	.. .. .	5	0	0
Mr. Youngman	.. .. .	5	0	0
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Mr. Epworth	.. .. .	5	0	0
Mrs. Rice	.. .. .	5	0	0
Mr. Scannell	.. .. .	5	0	0
Brompton Young Ladies' Working So-	cietv, per Misses Gray	5	0	0
Mr. Watts	.. .. .	3	0	0
Mr. A. Greig	.. .. .	2	0	0
Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Morison	.. .. .	2	0	0
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Bideford—Rev. J. Whiting	.. .. .	3	5	0
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Liverpool—Rev. J. Kelly	..	..	0	17	8
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Market Weighton—Rev. F. G. W. Cox	..	..	5	0	0
Marlborough—Rev. R. H. Smith	..	..	4	16	0
Marple Bridge—Rev. T. G. Potter	..	..	3	0	0
Middlesbrough—Rev. H. P. Bowen	..	..	2	1	2
Morley—Rev. J. Reeve	..	..	4	13	2
Morpeth—Rev. W. Ayre	..	..	10	8	6
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Ryde—Rev. Dr. Ferguson.. ..	..	..	8	7	4
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C. Payne, Esq. .. ..	5	0	0		

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Southampton—Rev. T. Adkins	..	..	..	3	0	0
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Waytown .. .. .	7	0	0
Welford—Rev. W. Gill .. .. .	7	1	7
Welling .. .. .	1	18	0
West Looe—Rev. J. Kightly .. .. .	3	2	6
Whitehaven—per W. Wilson, Esq. .. .. .	15	10	6
Whitstable—Rev. D. Harrison .. .. .	5	5	6
Wigan—Rev. W. Roaf .. .. .	10	0	0
Wincanton—Rev. J. E. Drover .. .. .	1	10	0
Windsor—Rev. J. A. Miller .. .. .	13	7	6
Wingrave—Rev. T. Aston .. .. .	4	8	0
Winslow—Rev. J. B. Attenborough .. .. .	2	10	0
Wisbeach—Rev. W. Holmes .. .. .	2	12	0
Witney—Rev. H. Perfect .. .. .	2	16	6
Wivenhoe, Rev. S. Hubbard .. .. .	2	7	0
Woburn—Rev. S. Weston .. .. .	2	0	0
Woodham Ferris—Rev. J. Bailey .. .. .	1	2	0

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Wootton Bassett—Rev. M. Thomas	..	..	..	1	8	4
Worthing	..	..	..	4	18	4
Wrentham—Rev. J. Brown, B.A.	..	..	..	3	4	9
Small Sums	..	..	..	1	4	2

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50,720, 28,483, 21,521, 73,969, 42,176, 69,553, 41,780, 30,501, 32,909, 64,409, 27,313, 61,538, 39,774, 58,868, 30,130, 4,420, 48,343, 13,163, 68,478, 45,942, 70,262, 25,580, 58,341, 26,220, 15,102, 20,485, 26,277, 38,350, 6,023, 67,580\* to 67,584\* 55,790, 61,708, 22,341, 44,653, 7,091, 64,732, 67,541, 64,606, 34,326\* to 34,329\* 38,041, 19,401, 60,895, 47,684, 58,285, 951, 62,917, 71,545, 25,689, 43,655, 53,589, 2,489, 54,850, 8,697, 71,454, 66,046, 28,517.

\* Grouped.

The shares numbered, 46,068, 69,230, 51,394, 36,616, 57,229; 32,801, 37,378, 3,195, 46,634, 33,177, 44,452, were also drawn, but as the subscriptions thereon were in arrears, the holders thereof have lost the benefit of this drawing. Copies of the Prospectus, Rules, and last Annual Report, may be obtained at the office, or by post, gratis.

Feb. 8, 1854. W. E. WHITTINGHAM, Secretary.

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# THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XVI.—NEW SERIES, No. 432.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1854.

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## Ecclesiastical Affairs.

### AN AUSPICIOUS START.

A SHORT account, inserted elsewhere, of a private *soirée* convened by the Executive Committee of the Society for the Liberation of Religion from State Patronage and Control, and held on Wednesday evening last, at Radley's Hotel, will no doubt be read with interest by the greater number of our friends. It will be remembered, that the Conference in November last resolved, that the future operations of the Association, theretofore chiefly directed to the enlightenment of public opinion, should, in future, be also brought to bear more immediately upon Parliament, and its constituent bodies. It was proposed that separate and distinct committees should be formed, each to be provided with requisite funds for efficient action, the one to act exclusively upon the House of Commons, and the other upon electoral communities. It was further determined, with a view to sustain the Association in these more extended efforts, to raise its annual income, if possible, to £5,000 a-year, guaranteed for three years—and to the Executive Committee was confided the onerous task of carrying these resolutions into effect.

We can bear honest testimony to the fact, that the Committee have not been inattentive to their duty. Their proceedings have been necessarily slow, because, where large subscriptions are to be raised, delicacy of management is indispensable, and gentlemen have to be approached, for the most part individually, and, in some cases, conferred with frequently. It is moreover inevitable, in such matters, that some tentative endeavours should prove unsuccessful, and work which seemed to have reached a promising stage of progress should have to be abandoned, and recommenced on a different plan. We are happy to assure our readers that preliminary difficulties are now got over—and to congratulate the Executive Committee on the auspicious start they have at length been able to make. And we deem it but due to the chairman of the meeting on Wednesday night to mention, that the splendid success in which we now rejoice, has been largely promoted by his earnest and zealous co-operation with the Committee from the breaking up of the Conference in November, down to the present moment.

As yet, a completely organised committee for the superintendence and conduct of Parliamentary business cannot be said to be formed. The Executive have refrained from proceeding thus far, in the confident hope of being able to arrange for uniting with it, in action, if not in personal composition, other bodies moving in the same direction. But they have secured the services of a highly efficient chairman—Dr. Foster, Professor of Jurisprudence in the London University College—who will devote the whole of his time not required by his professional engagements to this branch of the Society's work. The learned gentleman is far from being a novice in the kind of labour to which he has so heartily committed himself. The London University College, in certain of its recent movements requiring constant Par-

liamentary agency, has reaped, and highly appreciates, the benefit of Dr. Foster's untiring exertions. He is not, therefore, by any means a stranger in the lobby of the House of Commons, and his past efforts will do much to smooth the way for his future labours. He will enter upon his work forthwith, and it is confidently anticipated that in a few days he will have the gratification of associating with himself suitable colleagues. We may hope, therefore, that the advantages aimed at in the projection of this Parliamentary Committee will be fully realised—that M.P.'s of liberal ecclesiastical views will be drawn into closer concert, and aided by requisite information, by the establishment of this agency—and that the battle of religious freedom in the House of Commons will be fought this session—not with greater courage and fidelity—but with higher strategical skill than heretofore.

Of course, as soon as the Parliamentary Committee has been completely organised, the attention of the Executive must be directed to the formation of a similar committee to act upon our constituencies, and it is bound by the decisions of the Conference to carry on, with undiminished energy, its general tuitional work throughout the country. The large increase of expenditure which will thus be entailed upon the Committee, never overburdened with funds, has engaged their serious attention, and a spirited effort is being made to raise the necessary income for three years at least. It was wisely determined, we think, to begin in London, and it was thought that if £1,000 a-year could be raised in the metropolis, the friends of the Association in the provinces would be encouraged and stimulated to supply the remaining £4,000. The select *soirée* of Wednesday last was convened for the purpose of starting the London subscription. The number of gentlemen present might be about fifty, and the sum announced at the close of the meeting as having been engaged for was about £500. This highly successful commencement will, we understand, be instantly followed up with unremitting energy. A larger and more general meeting of the Society's friends will be held about a month hence, and meanwhile every effort will be made, by personal application, to add to the list of subscribers already obtained. Arrangements are in progress for taking up the work in the country, as soon as London has been thoroughly canvassed.

There were two features of the meeting on Wednesday which struck us as peculiarly encouraging. In the first place, we had to welcome several new adherents—gentlemen, too, for the most part, whose names will give weight to their decision, and whose proffered subscriptions proved them to be in earnest. This fact, taken in connexion with others which have come within our cognizance, leads us to the gratifying belief that the conciliatory attitude taken by the last Conference, the change made in the name of the Association and in some of its modes of action, and the more practical and direct proposals for pursuing the Society's object then adopted, have told, and are telling, effectively on the minds of many whose co-operation until now it has sought in vain to enlist. We never anticipated a rush of these gentlemen into the ranks of those from whom they have hitherto stood aloof. But we entertained no doubt, and our confidence has been pleasingly confirmed, that the most thoughtful and sincere among them would quietly review their position, and that within reasonable time they would come over and help us. We believe this process of assimilation is going forward to a very encouraging extent, quickened, we have no doubt, by the Census Report on Religious Worship. We look forward with sanguine expectation to a not very remote realization of our earnest wish, when the Society for the Liberation of Religion from State Patronage and Control will represent the undivided strength of the Protestant Dissenting bodies, and will wield it for the accomplishment of its and their important object.

The other feature of Wednesday evening's meeting which struck us as auguring better things for the future, was the high scale of the contributions

handed in. Considerably fewer than fifty names we think, account for the whole £500 subscribed. We do not under-estimate the value of money, in itself considered—but oftentimes, as in this instance, it stands for something better than itself. When gentlemen come forward and pledge their names to ten, twenty, twenty-five, forty, and even fifty pounds per annum for three years, it is to be presumed that the object which elicits such liberality is highly prized, and that tolerable confidence is placed in the means by which it is proposed to attain it. Moreover, in this case, much will depend upon the force of example—and we do hope that it will be found to operate extensively. At any rate, the small scale of subscription to this Society will now, we trust, be adopted by none, save under the stress of necessity. If the spirit of last week's *soirée* be carried out pretty generally, the income deemed requisite by the Conference and the Executive Committee will be raised with ease.

### LIBERATION OF RELIGION FROM STATE PATRONAGE AND CONTROL.

The Executive Committee of the Society existing for the above object, having been assiduously engaged since the Conference held in November, in preparing to carry on the Society's operations with increased vigour, invited their Parliamentary and other leading friends to a *soirée*, at Radley's Hotel, on Wednesday last, at which their plans were submitted for consideration, and steps were taken for carrying them into effect. The entertainment was of a private character, but the proceedings were of a kind to admit of the publication of a brief sketch for the information of the Society's friends, and of the public generally.

Among those who were present, we observed Jas. Kershaw, M.P., John Bright, M.P., Thos. Barnes, Esq., M.P., Frank Crossley, Esq., M.P., Jas. Bell, Esq., M.P., Apsley Pellatt, Esq., M.P., Edward Miall, Esq., M.P., Samuel Morley, Esq., Geo. W. Alexander, Esq., Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Wire, C. J. Foster, Esq., LL.D., C. F. Wood, Esq., LL.D., G. W. Harrison, Esq., of Wakefield, W. Martin, Esq., of Manchester, and Rev. S. R. Ward, of Canada. Letters were received from several influential gentlemen, expressing their regret at their inability to be present, and among them Sir Jas. Anderson, M.P., Mr. Scholefield, M.P., Mr. Biggs, M.P., Mr. Heyworth, M.P., Mr. Hadfield, M.P., Mr. J. B. Mills, Mr. Jas. Spicer, W. Edwards, Esq., the Treasurer (absent from a family bereavement), and the Rev. Dr. Harris, who wrote,—"There is much work for such a society to do, and I should consider it an honour to do anything in its behalf."

After the company had taken tea, Mr. Morley, who acted as Chairman, expressed his great satisfaction at the changes made in the Society's constitution, and the conciliatory spirit displayed by the Executive, gave a warm welcome to those gentlemen present who had not attended any of the Society's previous gatherings. He explained the purpose for which they had been invited to meet, which was further set forth in a statement submitted by the Committee, of which the following are the principal points:—The Committee purposed devoting much of their attention for some time to come to efforts to secure new adherents. For these efforts, the present time was peculiarly propitious, it being generally felt that public opinion had been considerably affected by the course of events, while Dissenters had, for the first time, something like a representation in the House of Commons. Feeling this, the late Conference had been urged to sanction a new policy, in the hope of thoroughly organizing earnest Nonconformity in furtherance of the object sought. The Conference acceded to such suggestions, and hence changes had taken place, which there was reason to believe had produced a very favourable impression, and paved the way for obtaining the increased support felt to be essential. An important feature in the Conference proceedings was the plan, proposed by Mr. Miall, for realising two most important desiderata—to establish a permanent link of connexion between the Society and the Anti-state-church element within the walls of Parliament, and to bring systematic and continuous effort to bear upon the electoral bodies, with a view to the increase of that element. It was suggested that there should be two small committees for Parliamentary and electoral purposes, independent of the Society, in action, but acting in conjunction with its executive. Subject to modifi-



cations, this scheme was approved, and in connexion with it, a resolution was adopted affirming the necessity for raising the Society's income to £5,000, by subscriptions guaranteed for three years. As some time must be occupied in giving effect to this last resolution, the Committee, as a provisional arrangement, had decided upon the appointment of a standing Parliamentary sub-Committee (with power to add to its number gentlemen not on the Executive,) for the present session; and, as essential to its vigorous action, had appointed a salaried chairman, whose time would be largely devoted to that special work. In the appointment of Charles James Foster, Esq., LL.D., Professor of Jurisprudence in the University College, the Committee had secured the services of a gentleman having thoroughly at heart the success of their labours, and one whom they regarded as fitted for such a post both by competency and by position, and especially by his untiring exertions to obtain the incorporation and enfranchisement of the University of London. The Committee expressed their earnest hope that a practical sanction would be given to this step by raising the funds which would be required, and also, for the constitution and early activity of the proposed Electoral Committee, which should be preparing for a general election next year upon an entirely new electoral basis."

Mr. G. W. ALEXANDER moved, and Mr. PELLATT, M.P., seconded, a Resolution approving of the Committee's plans, the latter insisting on the necessity for having an active man constantly in the lobby of the House of Commons, to co-operate with Dissenting members within. Mr. Wire spoke to the resolution, as did also

Mr. BRIGHT, M.P., whose appearance among the Society's friends added to the pleasure produced by the evening's proceedings. He said that there never was a time comparable to the present for advancing their views; the utmost freedom of opinion being enjoyed, and members of the Establishment, clerical as well as lay, being, as his personal intercourse with them enabled him to say, much shaken in their old views of the question. Such measures as the Society now proposed adopting were likely to be of great practical value; for a few men in the House of Commons, proposing the right thing at the right moment, could often exercise an influence more than proportionable to their numerical strength. If the representation corresponded with the facts of the Census, the position of the question would be greatly altered; but the new Reform Bill would no doubt do much in their direction, and a few general elections would double or treble their forces, especially as the northern boroughs were not at all averse to being represented by Dissenters. That Census had probably startled Churchmen as no statistics had ever done before; but let Dissenters take care that the next Census did not indicate a less favourable state of things than that at which they might now well rejoice. Remembering that their progress depended on the vitality of their institutions, let them, while rejoicing in every effort of the Church, made in an honest spirit, emulate Churchmen in liberality and zeal.

Dr. WOOD expressed great satisfaction at the appointment of Dr. Foster, of whose competency he spoke in high terms. The Graduates of the London University would, he feared, severely suffer in losing his services, and it was compensatory to find that he was about to occupy such a post of usefulness.

Mr. Wire, Mr. Kershaw, M.P., Mr. Bell, M.P., and G. W. Harrison, Esq., delivered brief addresses, and Dr. Foster glanced at the character of the undertaking before him; and, referring to the subject of University Reform, Church-rates, the Estimates, and the Census, expressed his conviction that the committee were on the right track, and, by good management, would render most valuable service.

A resolution was adopted, pledging gentlemen present to efforts to raise the Society's income, and a subscription list for the next three years was immediately entered upon. As an official list will, we presume, be published, we need only state, as indicating the earnestness of the party, that subscriptions for three years, and donations, amounting to nearly £500, were announced, and among them the following:—Mr. Morley, £50; Mr. Wm. Edwards, £50; Dr. Epps, £50; Mr. F. Crossley, M.P., £40; Mr. J. Crossley, £25; Mr. Barnes, M.P., £20; Mr. Kershaw, M.P., £20; Mr. Bayley, £20; Mr. Wire, £10; Mr. Bell, M.P., £10 10s.

It was past ten o'clock when the business of the evening was brought to a close, by a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. Miall, who acknowledged the important service he had rendered in assisting to convene such a meeting, which would greatly cheer the Committee and all their friends.

We understand that the Committee are arranging for another *soirée*, of a more extended character, as well as for similar efforts in the large towns, to follow up what has been so well commenced.

#### MEETING OF CONVOCATION.

##### THE UPPER HOUSE.

The Convocation of the Clergy of the province of Canterbury met on Wednesday morning at Westminster. The Upper House sat in a chamber of Queen Ann's Bounty-office. The Archbishop presided, and thirteen of his suffragan bishops were present. The earlier part of the sitting was occupied with the report of a committee, which had considered the question, whether stipendiary curates had the right to vote for members of Convocation? They were of opinion, that the preponderance of evidence was against their right. The Bishop of Exeter disputed this conclusion: in his diocese the curates were always summoned.

Petitions having been presented, representing the frequent misuse of the Church's offices, consequent upon conflicting laws and obligations, as well as that general abeyance of godly discipline which was irre-

mediable without synodical deliberation; also, the insufficient spiritual provision for an increased population, and the amount of irreligion abounding; and expressing an earnest hope that Convocation might, ere long, be enabled to propose such measures as it might judge best calculated to secure the harmonious and beneficial action of the whole church, with a view to the increase of her welfare and efficiency, the advancement of true religion, and the promotion of the kingdom and glory of Christ, the Bishop of London proposed—

That his Grace the President be moved to appoint a committee of this House, and to desire the Lower House to nominate seven of its members to deliberate with such committee when summoned, to consider and report to the Houses, with a view to addressing her Majesty thereon, whether any, and if so, what reforms in the constitution of the Convocation are expedient to enable it to treat, with the full confidence of the Church, of such matters as her Majesty may be pleased to submit to its deliberations.

The state of the times he said, called upon them to consider the best way of remedying evils which weighed upon the Church and crippled her energies; and, after such an investigation, they might entreat her Majesty, as supreme governor of the Church, to give them powers which they did not at present possess.

The Bishop of St. David's seconded the motion, which, he observed, did not pledge them to any specific opinion or view upon the subject. To reject the motion would be tantamount to pronouncing that, in their opinion, Convocation must continue a mere dead and empty form; and, if so, he would wish the form abolished altogether. (Hear, hear.) When he once saw that there was no hope that this form could become a substance, he should feel it a matter of duty to abstain from attending at meetings in which the aid, the inspiration, and so the actual presence of the Holy Spirit was invoked to guide deliberations which were an avowed and open mockery. (Hear, hear.)

The Bishop of Winchester gave a qualified assent to the motion.

The Bishop of Oxford gave some explanation of what they wanted. Their principle had been that alterations and adaptations of the Church's system were imperatively needed, that they could only lawfully be obtained by some internal synodical action of herself, and that there was no course open but to use the existing synod, imperfect as it was, as the means of reaching to a more perfect representation of the Church. They did not desire that the Crown should at this time send down its license to make canons and constitutions upon any other subject than the reform of Convocation, for there should be a representation of the body of the clergy, such as was not given them in the existing Convocation, to make that assembly competent rightly and satisfactorily to discharge a larger trust. But he, and others who thought with him, looked forward to a plan being laid before the Crown and the nation, with a view to ascertain whether the Church of England had the power of settling anything for herself, or must make the humiliating confession, that there was such a want of wisdom in her community, or such deep internal discords, that it was impossible for her to provide for energetic necessities by new legislation. The increase of population and the alteration of the laws and phases of society made some internal action needful. They had very definite rubrics for their ritual observances, and to carry them out literally in almost any populous district would give rise to commotion and disturbance of the most frightful kind, and yet the clergy were bound by solemn obligations to observe those rubrics, and fulfil that ritual, and no dispensing power was lodged anywhere; and this was a yoke that was becoming intolerable to conscientious men. Besides, it was the very condition of such a body as the Church that it should be continually inventing new methods of meeting new evils—new hands of mercy to stretch out to the multitudes. A rigid and unaltered system might do for a time of the Church's sleep, but not for a time of wakefulness and vigour; and if it pleased God to give a revival to the Church's zeal, and there were provided no means of lawful adaptation of the system to the requirements of the population, the Church must be torn by intestine throes, threatening its organised existence. It was absurd that there should be a great spiritual body with a minute set of rules impossible to be observed, and with no dispensing power to allow for their neglect.

The Bishop of London was not sure whether he was right in supposing the Bishop of Oxford to represent the inconvenience of the want of any power to relax doctrinal formularies. The Bishop of Exeter was rather startled at that expression, and should be sorry to see that put forward as a matter upon which their action should be much employed, though they ought not to renounce the power. The Bishop of Oxford explained. His argument referred to the organization and rules of the Church. He considered that a living Church must meet with new forms of error, and must have the power, therefore, not of settling any new doctrine, but of explaining how her present declarations applied to these new forms of emergent error. (Hear, hear.)

The Archbishop of Canterbury had not the same expectation as some entertained of any great advantage to the most important parts of the mission of their Church from the deliberations of any Convocation, however constituted. There were many parishes to be pointed out, in which, whatever alteration was made in the rubrics or doctrinal formularies, we could not expect a greater amount of Christian truth to be promulgated, or a greater degree of Christian practice to prevail; and, therefore, it did not seem as if the machinery was in fault. At the same time, alterations might be advisable in many things connected with their Church; there might be improvement even in some parts of their excellent liturgy; and he had lamented the existing divisions, because they tended to place improvement and the amendment of inconsistencies and imperfections at a greater distance. But our whole constitution must be changed before the Church could have of itself the

power of settling and determining these things. The matter must be determined by Parliament; the Act of Uniformity could only be abrogated by Parliament. Whether recommendations from such a body as Convocation would be more likely to be well received than in another form he would not say. The right rev. prelate had spoken of persons differing on fundamental truths subscribing the same formularies; he seemed to argue that formularies relating to fundamental truths might have to be altered. We might not all agree upon what were fundamental truths; he (the Archbishop) had known some so considered that he did not hold to be such, because he did not conceive that they were found in Scripture. He apprehended it would cause great alarm if there was to be any idea that the formularies were to be altered. His own impression was that a smaller body than Convocation—a commission selected by her Majesty—of ten or twenty persons, clergymen and laymen, might better consider the matters requiring attention. He doubted whether Convocation would have the general feeling of the country in its favour. However, he thought it was proper, under present circumstances, to appoint the committee.

The motion was then put and agreed to, and the Bishops of London, Oxford, Exeter, Salisbury, Chichester, St. David's, and St. Asaph, were appointed members of the committee.

The Bishop of Llandaff then moved for a joint committee to consider and report whether the great increase and present condition of the population did not make some, and what, adaptation of the Church's rules needful to enable her to meet her spiritual wants. A long discussion took place upon this motion. The chief point discussed was the necessity of their being a power to employ some missionary agency in order to reach some classes of the population. The committee was recommended as likely to be useful in collecting materials ready to be laid before a reformed Convocation for its deliberation. The motion was agreed to, the Bishop of Winchester alone voting against it. The Bishops of London, Oxford, Lichfield, Worcester, Chichester, St. David's, and Llandaff, were appointed members of the committee.

The Lower House was then (at 3 o'clock) summoned, and the Prolocutor and other members being come, were acquainted with these resolutions, and requested to name members from their body to serve on the committees. They retired to consider the request. In about an hour and a half the Prolocutor returned, and handed in the names which had been agreed to. The Archbishop, having expressed his approval of the selection, prorogued the Convocation to the 30th of June.

##### THE LOWER HOUSE.

The Dean of Ely acted as Prolocutor, and after he had made a short address, Dr. Spry, moved that a committee be appointed to consider and report on the privileges and modes of proceeding of the House, and how far it might be expedient to make any standing orders consistent with the ancient practice of the House.

The Archdeacon of Lewes seconded the motion.

The Rev. Mr. Cox objected to any step of the kind being taken until it had been decided that it was desirable for Convocation to reassume a deliberative character. Eventually, the resolution was carried unanimously.

Dr. Wordsworth proposed the formation of a committee to consider and report upon schedules of *gravamina* and *reformatanda* tendered by members of the House. If the Lower House was to do business and do it well, it could not be done in the house by passion or controversy, but in committees, where calm judgment could be exercised. To try the point, Dr. Wordsworth placed a schedule on the table drawing attention to the right of the Lower House of Convocation to make a representation of grievances to the Upper, and to the fact, that by the census it appeared that 5,000,000 of the population absented themselves on the Sabbath day from public worship. Dr. Hussey seconded the motion, and after some discussion it was agreed to and the committee nominated.

Archdeacon Denison drew attention to the want of professional training for candidates for holy orders. There was nothing to debar a man from entering into holy orders at present but the existence of any notorious crime, and he read to the House two resolutions, to the terms of which he hoped to obtain its sanction. The Church should have a general system of professional education carried out through the universities and cathedral bodies. He hoped that any attempts for the reformation of the cathedrals would have that prominently in view, thus making them of real service to the Church. Archdeacon Denison was proceeding in support of his resolutions, when a messenger, summoning the Lower House to the Upper, cut short his observations.

The Prolocutor, on his return, astonished the members of Convocation present, by announcing that they were called upon by his Grace the President, and the Upper House to nominate two committees of seven, to act with committees of the Upper House, for the purposes mentioned above.

Dr. Russell moved the appointment of the committees as desired. Archdeacon Denison pointed out the great importance of the position in which the House was placed by the command of the Upper House. Dr. Wordsworth said that the order was imperative, and could not be discussed. The Dean of Bristol thought it was in the power of the Lower House to refuse acting on the dictation of the Upper House. The voice of a proctor in that House was quite as powerful as that of a bishop in the other. Archdeacon Denison said that no one was more anxious for the synodical institutions of the Church than he was; but here was a proposition which, until then, very few people had any intimation of. If he were imperatively called upon, as a member of the Lower House, to appoint the committees proposed, he wished to guard



himself against its being imagined that he did not protest with all his power against the admission of a single layman into Convocation. Archdeacon Sinclair also considered the course which it was proposed to pursue as in the highest degree perilous. The Archdeacon of Ely deprecated anything like contumacious opposition to the Upper House. At the same time he was convinced, that a less seasonable time than the present could not be found for the revival of the synodical action of Convocation. There were divisions among the clergy of the most momentous kind, and when they assembled to deliberate on questions of doctrine which divided the church, there would be an exhibition of feeling which was most earnestly to be deprecated.

The Dean of Bristol proposed, as an amendment to Dr. Russell's motion—

"That the Prolocutor be requested to inform the President that the House will take the resolution of the Upper House into its consideration at the next meeting."

Lord Saye and Sele seconded the amendment. The Hon. and Rev. Montagu Villiers drew attention to the smallness of the attendance, and the surprise by which the House had been taken by the announcement made. It was an opinion entertained by many, that any revival of synodical action would be mischievous to the true interests of the Church. He confessed that he was one of that number; and it was taking them very unfairly off their guard when a motion like that before the House was made and passed without discussion. Eighty members of the House had not answered to their names when the roll was called over, and many of these were absent from an impression that their attendance was not required by the importance of any business that was likely to be discussed. Painful as it was to be put in a position of antagonism to his Grace the Archbishop, he could not allow such a resolution as that of Dr. Russell's to be put without standing up to express his sentiments with regard to it. Dr. Wordsworth recommended that they should appoint the committees ministerially, and not as the result of debate. With this view, an addition was made to the original motion, setting forth that the House nominated the committees at the desire of the Upper House. Strangers were then ordered to withdraw, and on a division there appeared—

	Present.	By Proxies.
For the amendment ...	15	28
For the original motion ..	44	45
Majority ..	29	17

The following is the list of members nominated for the First Committee:—The Prolocutor, the Dean of Bristol; the Archdeacons of Chichester, Barnstaple, and Maidstone; Dr. Russell, and Dr. McCaul.

The Second Committee will consist of the Dean of St. Paul's, the Archdeacons of Middlesex and St. Alban's, Dr. Wordsworth, Dr. Self, the Rev. Mr. Majendie, and the Rev. Mr. Hogarth.

Archdeacon Denison having deferred his resolutions till next session; after a few words from the Archdeacons of Middlesex, Winchester, and Barnstaple, and from Dr. Harrison and other speakers, protesting against the strong terms in which the Archdeacon of Taunton had expressed himself with reference to candidates for holy orders, the proceedings terminated and the House was prorogued.

The Convocation of York formally assembled on Wednesday. No writ having been received from the Crown to proceed to business, Convocation was instantly prorogued by the Archbishop's Commissioner, the Rev. Vernon Harcourt.

#### DEPUTATION TO VISCOUNT PALMERSTON ON CHURCH-RATES AND OTHER MEASURES.

A deputation from the Protestant Dissenting Deputies of the Three Denominations had an interview, on Friday last, with Viscount Palmerston, M.P., her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department, on the abolition of Church rates, the Dissenters' Marriage Acts Amendment Bill, and the Places of Religious Worship Registration Bill. The deputation consisted of Mr. S. Morton Peto, M.P.; Mr. Apsley Pellatt, M.P.; Mr. Thomas Pettress, Mr. R. Hanbury, Mr. W. Beddome, Mr. E. Clarke, Mr. Josiah Conder, Mr. B. Cooke, Mr. Joseph East, Mr. William Gover, Mr. J. K. Kilpin, Mr. J. R. Mills, Mr. C. Reed, Mr. Robert Terrell, and the Secretary, and were accompanied by the Rev. G. Smith and Mr. Rice Hopkins, as representatives of the Congregational Union on the Dissenters' Marriage Acts Amendment Bill. The deputation was supported by the following members of Parliament:—Mr. Thomas Barnes, Mr. J. Cheetham, Sir William Clay, Mr. Frank Crossley, Mr. G. Hadfield, Mr. L. Heyworth, Mr. Alderman Kershaw, Mr. R. Milligan, Mr. J. Pilkington.

On the subject of Church-rates, the deputation informed his lordship that they had already presented a memorial to Lord Aberdeen thereon, who had replied, that Government would introduce some measure to alter the existing law, and had referred the Deputies to his lordship for further explanation. The deputation then wished to know what plan Government proposed to introduce to Parliament. Lord Palmerston replied, the Government intended to introduce such a measure as should appear practicable, that he had the papers on the subject before him, and that he would shortly communicate with the deputation thereon.

On the Dissenters' Marriage Acts Amendment Bill, his lordship was reminded that he had generally approved of the measure as prepared by the Deputies during the last session, and that it had been postponed, by the wish of her Majesty's Government, to this session, in order that some additions might be made to it. The deputation pressed his lordship to introduce the bill as a Government measure. His Lordship replied, that he was in communication with the Re-

gistrar-General on the subject, and that he would at once take it into consideration.

On the "Places of Religious Worship Registration Bill," his lordship was reminded that it had been introduced to Parliament, last session, as a Government measure, that it was corrected by the Deputies, whose alterations were adopted by the framers of the Bill, that the bill had been protested against by the Unitarian Presbyterians, but, it was believed, that all the objections stated in the petition of the Unitarians had been met in the corrections made in the Bill. The deputation stated, that as the Bill was necessary to correct a serious error in an existing Act, which had been prepared by Government, and that as its being passed would give great satisfaction to the general body of Dissenters, her Majesty's Government were urged to re-introduce the Bill of the last session. Lord Palmerston stated, that the Unitarians had expressed fears that the passing of the Bill would interfere with the security of their titles to chapels, under an Act passed a few years since. The deputation replied, that such fears were groundless, as the proposed Bill did not insist that the parties registering chapels should state their peculiar creed or denomination. It was agreed that the Unitarian members should be communicated with on the subject.

DISSENTERS AND THE LEEDS WORKHOUSE.—A deputation from the Nonconformist ministers of Leeds, headed by the Rev. Mr. Hudswell, waited upon the Board of Guardians on Wednesday, relative to the admission of Dissenters into the Workhouse and Industrial School, and also to ask for some relaxation of the rule which had hitherto compelled the interment of Dissenters dying in the Workhouse, in consecrated ground only. After some discussion, the following resolution was carried by 7 to 1:—"That any minister, town missionary, local preacher, or prayer leader, be allowed to visit the Workhouse and Industrial Schools for religious purposes at suitable times, not interfering with the stated services of the chaplain. Mr. Newton then moved—"That it be an instruction to the master of the Workhouse, the master of the Industrial School, the master of the Mendicity-office, and the several relieving officers of the township, to cause the bodies of the poor persons who may die in their respective establishments or districts, and who may be interred at the expense of the township, who shall by themselves or relatives make request to that effect, to be buried in the unconsecrated portion of the municipal cemetery, or in any Roman Catholic or Dissenting burial-ground in the township, the burial fee in any case not to exceed 3s. 6d." This was carried unanimously.

PRISON CHAPLAINS.—A return has just been issued with respect to "Religious Instruction in Prisons in Scotland and Ireland," ordered on the motion of Mr. Lucas. It shows a total of fifty-two Roman Catholic chaplains to prisons in Ireland, forty-nine "Protestant" (by which term clergymen of the United Church of England and Ireland are meant), and nineteen Presbyterian and Dissenters. The number of prisoners of these three classes of communions amounted to 8,904,823, and 181. The chaplains' salaries vary from £20 to £100 (most of them being under £50), but the Roman Catholic chaplain at Mountjoy has £150 a-year, and at Spike Island £200. In Scotland there are no Episcopalian or Roman Catholic prison chaplains.

WESLEYAN REFORM.—On Tuesday evening a crowded meeting of Wesleyan Reformers was held at the Freemason's Hall, Great Queen-street, for the purpose of giving "important information relative to the great Protestant movement." Mr. Laws, of Bristol, took the chair. The proceedings having been opened with prayer, the chairman vindicated the character of the Reformers, and denied that it was their intention to found a new sect. They wanted to destroy the Wesleyan Conference as it existed at present, and not allow that Conference to make laws, and thrust those laws upon them, whether they liked them or not. Mr. Martin, of Manchester, in a long address, explained the various causes which led to the quarrel with the Wesleyan Conference, which he denounced (amidst much cheering) as one of the greatest despotisms of the present day. The Rev. J. Burnet, of Camberwell, also addressed the meeting at great length, and at its conclusion, a vote of thanks was accorded to him. A collection was then made, after which Mr. Mann and other gentlemen addressed the meeting, which separated at a very late hour.

CATHEDRAL SINECURES.—At a meeting at Carlisle, on Monday week, the Mayor in the chair, resolutions were passed declaring that the incomes of the working clergy of that city are insufficient; that the four canons in the Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Carlisle are "useless sinecures," and may be advantageously suppressed; and that the income of one such canonry be applied in augmentation of the four incumbencies in the city. A petition founded on these resolutions was ordered to be forwarded to Mr. Ferguson, one of the borough members, for presentation in the House of Commons.

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST ARCHDEACON DENISON.—A correspondent of the *Daily News* states that measures have been taken by which Archdeacon Denison will be called upon to answer in the Ecclesiastical Courts for the opinions which he has lately promulgated on the subject of the real presence in the elements of the Lord's Supper.

ANOTHER CHURCH-RATE REFUSED AT MAIDSTONE.—Last August a Church-rate was refused in this town, after four days' hard polling, by a majority of 98 votes, and 360 voters; and it was generally hoped, that this annual source of strife in the parish would henceforth cease. But the defeat was too bitterly resented by the incumbent, Rev. W. Vallance, and a few of the more haughty Churchmen, for peace to remain long undisturbed. And, as they had obtained

an "opinion" from counsel, that, by virtue of sundry Acts of Parliament, all rate-payers whose rental was under £20 might be refused votes, they hoped to fight under new terms, and reverse the defeat they could so ill brook. Moreover, the Archbishop, who is rector of Maidstone, anxious to place a different clergyman in the perpetual curacy, had given Mr. Vallance a living in Essex, where, instead of a population of 20,000, he would only have some 450 rural parishioners; and he was anxious to wipe off the disgrace, before he left the town, which the triumph of the Dissenters in August last, he said, had inflicted on him. So two or three clergymen and a noble lord, and a few more High-Church notables, determined to risk another fight. Notice was accordingly given of a vestry for Thursday, Feb. 2, at which time the fine old church must have had nearly a thousand men assembled within its walls, prepared to give one sturdy "No!" to every proposition for a rate. But the better part of valour is discretion, and the outgoing incumbent quietly left the town before the meeting. His noble friend, too, was absent, and the churchwardens had gained new light since they posted their notice of vestry, so they simply stated that they now came before the vestry for a three-halfpenny, instead of a threepenny rate, if the parish would grant it; but that, if that meeting refused it, they should not demand a poll! One or two gentlemen expressed their satisfaction at the altered tone of the officials, and a vote was at once taken, when, certainly, not a score of hands was held up for the rate, and against it several hundreds. The mayor announced that the rate was refused, and the meeting dispersed in good humour. So ends the compulsory principle in this old county town; but not without many a painful conflict, year by year, while public opinion was being slowly formed and brought to bear. For years, a few Dissenters had to bear all the odium of "disturbing the peace of the parish" by their "narrow-minded" and "impracticable" views; now Churchmen themselves, not a few, join heart and soul with the Dissenters and political Liberals, in opposing the injustice; and in the county town of Kent, in a parish of which the Primate of all England is the rector, the most dogged supporters of the Church's domination now acquiesce in the decision that no more Church-rates shall be levied.—*From a Correspondent.*

MORE RESIGNATIONS OF WESLEYAN MINISTERS.—We understand that two preachers, stationed in two of the London circuits at the last Conference, have recently resigned their position as Wesleyan ministers; viz., the Rev. T. Williams and the Rev. George Smith, brother of the Rev. Gervase Smith, who, when stationed at Wakefield, played the priest with Mr. G. W. Harrison and others. It is said, that the friends of Conference are very silent respecting the causes of these resignations; but it is understood, that the state of the connexion is such as to have induced them to quit a system of church domination that is increasingly evoking the disgust of the British public. One of the above gentlemen, it is supposed, will be seeking a living in the Established Church.—*Wesleyan Times.*

#### Religious and Educational Intelligence.

QUEEN-STREET CHAPEL, SHEFFIELD.—The *Sheffield Independent* of Saturday, reports the re-opening of this chapel, of which the Rev. J. H. Muir is pastor, on Thursday last. The cost of repairs and improvements was £1,400, towards which there had been raised previously to the opening—by subscriptions and a bazaar, the sum of £1,140. The Rev. J. A. James preached in the morning to a crowded congregation. In the afternoon, about eighty gentlemen dined together at the Royal Hotel, under the presidency of the Mayor (F. Hoole, Esq.) and vice-presidency of T. Birks, Esq. The chair was supported by the Rev. J. H. Muir, Rev. J. A. James, Rev. J. Kennedy, Rev. S. D. Waddy, Rev. D. Loxton, Rev. S. Dunn, Rev. J. Rennie, Rev. H. Batchelor, Rev. J. J. Shrubsole, Rev. J. Breakey, Aldermen Pye-Smith, Fawcett, H. Hoole, &c. The Rev. J. A. James said a few words prior to leaving by the train for Birmingham. He alluded with pleasure to the fact that the present Mayor of Sheffield was a Dissenter, and also to the fact that he was surrounded by ministers and friends of other denominations. To his young brethren in the ministry he would say that if they wanted to be popular as well as useful, let them be thoroughly energetic. He had found during nearly fifty years' experience, that the way to usefulness, and even to some measure of popularity, was by sticking to the good old truths, with the application of new power which improved education could give. After a short address from the vice-Chairman in proposing the health of Mr. Muir, and a suitable response from that gentleman, the Chairman said he felt proud to occupy the chair as the Mayor of Sheffield. His earliest recollections were connected with Queen-street Chapel. He was taken there as a child, and there he continued to serve God from his youth upwards. He loved the place, and though he removed before Mr. Muir came to the town, he had been frequently associated with him, and a more sincere friend or a kinder heart did not exist. (Cheers.) He congratulated the minister and people on their success. He agreed with his friend Mr. Birks, that it was time the hive swarmed; but the swarming, it appeared, had not made the hive less, for he was informed that not a few was unlet. (Applause.) That spoke well for dissent in Sheffield. After brief addresses from the Rev. J. Kennedy, and the Rev. S. D. Waddy, the health of the Vicar and clergy was proposed by the Vice-Chairman. The Chairman said, he was sure that no one, who had any dealings with the worthy Vicar, would disagree with the sentiments that had been uttered. It had been his duty to be thrown into the society of the reverend gentleman, and a more worthy man, or one more liberal in his opinions, he never met with. The Vicar



had been invited, and would have been present, but for a prior engagement at Pontefract. Mr. B. Schofield said, he had been requested by Mr. Montgomery to state, that his health would not permit him to attend the dinner. Mr. T. W. Rodgers returned thanks on behalf of the Vicar and clergy. Alderman Fawcett, Alderman Hoole, and the Rev. J. Breakey afterwards addressed the meeting. At the suggestion of Alderman H. E. Hoole, a subscription was started in the room towards liquidating the remainder of the debt, and £35 was raised in a few minutes. After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the company separated. In the evening, the Rev. John Kennedy preached to a crowded congregation, and after the sermon, a collection was made, amounting to £32. The opening thus far has realised £131.

**ORANGE-STREET CHAPEL, LEICESTER-SQUARE.**—The Rev. Edward Jukes, of Blackburn, has accepted a cordial invitation to become the pastor of this church and congregation, and proposes commencing his labours on the fourth Sabbath in March.

**LEWISHAM-ROAD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.**—On Thursday, January 26, a new chapel was dedicated to God for public worship, by special religious services. This chapel is 60 feet long by about 24 feet wide, substantially built in the Gothic style, and elegantly fitted up—having beautiful stained glass windows. This building is designed to be the school and lecture-room, and to form the appendages to a church, which is soon to be erected at a cost of about £5,000. The site was generously given by Capt. Drake, in a new and increasingly-peopled district of the town of Deptford, whose population is supposed to be about 34,000 souls. The Rev. G. Smith, Revs. W. J. Tyler, J. Russell, M'Farlane, J. Sherman, and W. Lucy took part in the morning services. The Rev. T. Binney preached; Rev. J. Pulling gave out the Sanctus; and Rev. G. Rose concluded with prayer. After the morning service, about sixty friends were hospitably entertained at a sumptuous collation by Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Wire, at his elegant mansion; and the company were addressed on suitable topics by the worthy host, Apsley Pellatt, Esq., M.P., Revs. T. Binney, G. Smith, T. Timpson, J. Watson, M'Farlane, Dr. Massie; the Under-Sheriff, and J. M. Hare, Esq. In the evening service, the Rev. C. Stovel, in the absence of Dr. Archer by the death of his mother, preached; Rev. T. Binney gave out the closing chant, and concluded with prayer.

**VOLUNTARY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION.**—On Saturday last, the first quarterly meeting of teachers in Yorkshire and Lancashire, in connexion with the above association (of which J. Crossley, Esq., of Halifax, is president), was held at Bradford. Several communications from different gentlemen were read by Mr. Cursley, of Sheffield, the secretary, and an admirable paper on the "Objects of the Association," was read by Mr. A. Wood, of Thorston. The association is likely to be a great help to the teachers, and is deserving of support by all favourable to voluntary education.

### Correspondence.

#### A CHURCH JOB AT STOKE NEWINGTON.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Will you permit me through the medium of the columns of your paper to call the attention of Dissenting members of Parliament to a bill which is introduced this session for the erection of a new parish church in Stoke Newington. It is promoted by the rector and a considerable party in the parish, and receives, I am told, the cordial support of the Bishop of London. Yet it is a bill which is not by any means called for by the necessities of the parish; has been palmed upon the inhabitants by the most fallacious representations, and if allowed to pass, will certainly entail upon Dissenters the necessity of continued struggles against church rates, from which we have happily, until the advent of the present rector, been free. These operations will be understood when I tell you that the bishop proposes an expenditure of eleven of twelve thousand pounds, (which will probably reach to fifteen or twenty thousand,) in order to provide church sittings for two or three hundred people; when the accommodation required might be provided by enlarging the present church at an expense of fifteen hundred or two thousand pounds; or by the erection of a district church by voluntary subscription for four or five thousand pounds, most of which is already subscribed. The bill as it stands now has never passed the vestry, and the original resolution of the vestry which sanctioned the erection of a new parish church, made it a *sine qua non*, that nothing should be done which would render a rate necessary; in spite of which, the bill provides part of the funds by the mortgage of an estate, the annual income from which has of late years enabled us to avoid the annoyance and injustice of a rate. I will not occupy more of your space. This will be sufficient to put members of Parliament on their guard for the present, and steps are being taken to lay the case more fully before both Houses. I am, yours obediently,

SAMUEL LUCAS.

Stoke Newington, Jan. 6, 1854.

#### RETURNS ON RELIGIOUS WORSHIP.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—Your abstract of the Census was a very able document, and its presentation to your readers was an act of generosity which ought to be appreciated.

There are, however, many of your readers who cannot be satisfied with anything short of the Census itself. Some have doubtless obtained it, but others have not done so, because they know not its price or where it may be obtained.

It would be well if the Reports which are from time

to time printed from Parliament could be thrown into the bookselling trade. Many of them are well worthy of the perusal of the reading public, and the price at which they are issued is generally so low as to place them within the reach of the multitude. Abstracts are generally inferior in contents and higher in price. For example: "The Results of the Census," published by Parker, at one shilling, does not contain half the information that may be found in the "Tables of the Population," &c., issued by Government at sixpence; and the "Papers respecting the Civil War in China," which may be had at the Parliamentary booksellers for sixpence, contain more valuable matter on that subject, than can be found in almost any of the pamphlets published at a much higher price.

Apart from its statistical tables, the "Census of Religious Worship" is at once the best and cheapest book on the religious denominations in England that has ever appeared. Many of your readers will be surprised to hear that, although it forms a handsome volume in large 8vo, the price is only two-and-sixpence. It may be obtained of Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, the printers, or of any Parliamentary bookseller. With a view to promote its circulation throughout the country, I have ascertained that Messrs. Biggs and Sons, 53, Parliament-street, will send it by post to any one who shall forward to them an order enclosing two-and-sixpence. The postage will be sevenpence, and may be paid on delivery.

I am, dear Sir, yours respectfully,  
York Road, Lambeth. THOMAS DAVIES.

#### LONDON CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL BUILDING SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—Will you permit me to correct two errors in your report of the meeting of the London Congregational Chapel Building Society, held on the 25th ult. The Chairman is made to say, that "during the five years of its [the Society's] existence, the committee had received little short of £20,000 . . . ; but it ought to be generally known that this sum had been contributed by less than twenty individuals." It should have been "that half this sum," &c.

I am reported to have said, that: "in 1805 it was computed that there were [in London] sittings for about 1 in 15; it now appeared that there was accommodation for 1 in 5." What I did say was to the effect, that in 1805 it was computed that not more than 1 in 15 of the population attended public worship, while now the proportion was 1 in 5. Thus showing that, notwithstanding the present deplorable state of things in this respect, there had yet been a mighty improvement made within the last fifty years.

Hoping that some of your readers will be disposed to aid us in what is now proved to be one of the most necessary and important religious movements of the day, and one of the most effective means of advancing voluntarism and nonconformity.

I remain, dear Sir, yours respectfully,  
THOMAS DAVIES, Sec.  
London, Feb. 6, 1854.

#### REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

On Wednesday, a deputation waited upon Lord Palmerston, at the Home Office, for the purpose of presenting the memorial agreed to at the late Birmingham conference on the subject of reformatory schools for juvenile criminals. The deputation comprised the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Earl of Harrowby, Lord Robert Grosvenor, Lord Lyttelton, Sir John Pakington, M.P., Mr. M. D. Hill, the Hon. A. Kinnaird, M.P., Mr. Adderley, M.P., Mr. W. Brown, M.P., the Mayor of Kidderminster, Mr. Bass, M.P., Mr. Packe, M.P., Mr. M. Milnes, M.P., the Mayor of Birmingham, Mr. Smith Child, M.P., Mr. J. Ball, M.P., the Hon. Mr. Liddell, M.P., the Rev. John Clay, the Hon. and Rev. G. M. Yorke, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Scholefield, M.P., &c.

Sir John Pakington gave an interesting sketch of the various movements that had taken place on the subject of juvenile delinquency. More than two years ago, towards the end of 1851, a conference was held at Birmingham on this subject. Resolutions were passed stating the views that were expressed on that occasion; and, in the ensuing year, 1852, a committee of the House of Commons was appointed to inquire into the subject. It was then thought that the question was scarcely ripe for legislation. An inquiry was therefore appointed, and the committee conducted their proceedings during the latter part of the session of 1852. Again, in the last year, a committee was appointed, and, having sat through the greater part of the session, they embodied their opinions in a series of twenty-five or twenty-six resolutions. The report so arrived at, was followed up by another conference held at Birmingham, and that conference agreed to the memorial be now held in his hand. That document stated, that they considered legislation necessary for the encouragement of reformatory schools for children convicted of crime or habitual vagrancy, and that such schools should be promoted, not only by voluntary contributions, but by assistance from the state. It urged that, as a check to any possible encouragement being offered to parental negligence, it was necessary that a portion of every child's maintenance at a reformatory school should be recoverable from the parents. Lastly, it urged that power should be given in certain cases to apprentice children from reformatory schools, or to adopt other measures for enabling them to commence a course of honest industry; and the prayer of the memorial was, that the memorialists respectfully submitted these opinions, in the earnest hope that her Majesty's Government might originate and support such measures as may be found practicable in the course of the present session of Parlia-

ment with a view to carry them into effect. Whatever weight might attach to that conference, tenfold weight must be allowed to belong to the memorial, when it was found to be signed by gentlemen of high social standing and long experience, and by clergymen whose lives had been signalised by great exertions in this cause. From all parts of England and Scotland—and, he believed, he might say of Ireland—he learnt that the people were availing themselves of the opportunity afforded by that conference to embody their own views, in order to impress on the Government that the time had arrived when some public action—if only from motives of Christian duty—was necessary to promote that important object. Towards the close of last session, Mr. Adderley introduced a bill for this purpose, assisted by him (Sir John Pakington), but they felt that they could not carry into an Act of Parliament a measure introduced by two independent members at the end of a protracted session. With this feeling they resorted to the bill simply as a means of impressing upon the legislature the necessity of some such enactment. Various members of the deputation then made statements on the subject. Lord Robert Grosvenor said, that so impressed were the Middlesex magistrates with the importance of the subject, that, instead of waiting for the House of Commons, they embodied their own opinions in a bill, and they came to a resolution, that if some general measure could not be brought before Parliament, they would themselves endeavour to proceed with the bill. The Hon. Mr. Liddell held in his hand a petition signed by the mayor of Liverpool, on behalf of a very numerous and influential meeting held last Thursday, complaining of the inadequacy of the existing means for suppressing juvenile delinquency. A similar meeting had been held at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Mr. M. D. Hill said, he had written to every recorder, and from none had he received any dissent to the opinions put forth, but, on the contrary, the warmest approbation. Lord Lovaine observed, that in the county of Surrey the feeling was very strong in favour of some Government means being adopted to check the evil complained of. The Hon. A. Kinnaird expressed a similar sentiment in respect to Scotland, whilst the Earl of Harrowby and Mr. Ball, M.P., stated that in Ireland there was a strong desire for Government interposition upon this important subject. Mr. Adderley stated, that meetings in favour of the movement had been held in various parts of the country, and a memorial from the Quarter Sessions of Stratford had been presented to Her Majesty. Mr. Milnes said, there never was a question which had grown in public opinion by more legitimate means.

Lord Palmerston replied, that the question was so important and so interesting, and must have made so deep an impression on the mind of every man who had considered it, that one representative would have been sufficient to carry out the purpose of this deputation. He was quite convinced that this matter was one of the most important that ought to attract the attention and excite the action of the Government. It was manifest, that unless they could devise some method of reforming youthful delinquents they would be driven further and further in the course of punishment, and it was well known that punishment inflicted in mature years seldom produced the reform desired. With respect to the change which had taken place in secondary punishments, he observed that, in consequence of the colonies having refused to receive any more convicts, it was imperative on the Government to endeavour to stop the source of crime. He quite understood that a measure of this sort could scarcely be brought forward with any hope of success by independent members of Parliament, especially in the present session, which already presented a large bill of fare. But he was ready to admit that it was the duty of Government to undertake the question. At least he should feel it his duty to do so, and he would give his best attention to it. He hoped to receive the advice and co-operation of the other members of the Government, relying on the cordial support of those gentlemen present, as well as many who were absent who had turned their attention more practically to the subject. He hoped that in the course of this session that they should be enabled to pass into a law some measure which would put a stop to this growing evil.

The deputation cordially thanked his lordship, and retired.

#### THE PRESTON STRIKE.

There is observable a sudden compression in the newspaper reports of this unhappily prolonged affair, consequent on the meeting of Parliament. It appears, however, that while the operatives' fund continues to range at upwards of £3,000 weekly, the number of applicants for relief diminishes—124 last week, 161 the week before—a result of the active promotion of removals.

It was currently rumoured in the town that the Associated Masters purposed opening their mills on Monday morning. It proved, however, that the report was destitute of foundation. It was also considered probable that Mr. Gratrix, worsted manufacturer, would shortly resume work, but unfortunately the negotiations were suddenly broken off. After the operatives had agreed to accept the average prices of similar mills throughout Lancashire, they insisted upon the average being taken from all the mills paying the 10 per cent. advance. To this proposition Mr. Gratrix declined to accede. Both master and men are now engaged in obtaining lists of prices. Mr. Hollins continues to increase the number of his hands: he has 180 looms at work, and upwards of 130 operatives employed.

Exertions are made to establish an Agricultural College in Leicestershire. The system of instruction pursued is to be as far as possible of a practical character.



## Parliamentary Proceedings.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Reformatory Institutions, in favour of, 12.  
Medical Officers (Navy) for equality, 7.  
Turkey, for assisting, 3.  
Wine, for reduction of duties, 1.  
Marriage with deceased wife's sister, for alteration of law, 5.  
Decimal Coinage, in favour of, 2.  
Borough and Court Police, against consolidation of, 4.  
Ocean Penny Postage, in favour of, 3.  
Stage Carriage Duties, for alteration of, 1.

## BILLS PRESENTED AND READ A FIRST TIME.

Assessed Taxes Act Amendment Bill.  
Episcopal and Capital Estates Bill.  
Valuation of Lands Scotland Bill.

## BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

Assessed Taxes Act Amendment Bill.

## THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

Being able to insert only a brief summary of the debate on the address in our last number, and a portion of that having been unfortunately transposed in the hurry of "making up," we subjoin the principal points in the speeches of the Ministerial leaders in both houses. The Premier in the House of Lords was preceded by the Earl of DERBY, who strongly criticised the foreign policy of the Government; condemned their proposition of Parliamentary reform as inopportune, and made a party use of Lord Palmerston's resignation. The country had been left twelve days without a Home Secretary. Lord Palmerston's resignation was tendered and accepted, and afterwards he returned to office. Lord Derby called for explanations; arguing, that if the differences which led to the resignation were easily got over, then both parties have much to explain; and that if they were of vital importance, there must have been an abandonment of principle on one side or other. Which had given way, Lord Aberdeen or his colleague?

The Earl of ABERDEEN directly met the assault of Lord Derby upon himself and the Government, rebuking him for making comments founded on information quite inaccurate, and in many instances the reverse of true, without waiting for the diplomatic papers. He replied to the accusation—"the odious accusation"—that the Emperor of Russia had been misled by Lord Aberdeen's known reluctance to go to war with him. Lord Aberdeen was ready to repeat his declarations against going to war with any state, more particularly with Russia. The people of this country had not unfrequently engaged in wars rashly, of which they afterwards repented at leisure. The duty of Government was not, under all circumstances, never to engage in war, but to restrain feelings of popular indignation, even when natural and justifiable, as in the present case, within the bounds of prudence. War, to be justifiable, must partake of the character of self defence. That war should ever be just, proves the utter depravity and corruption of human nature; but it is sometimes just; and in regard to the preservation of the balance of power in Europe, the country may be considered as acting in self-defence when it preserves the relations of the various powers necessary to the security of all. "But this, I say, is an odious accusation; and it has been repeated over and over again, in quarters which are supposed to be much connected with the noble Earl [Derby] and his friends." On Lord Aberdeen had been concentrated the whole attacks of the press opposed to the Government: the actual Minister for Foreign Affairs had passed comparatively without observation. "It is said at Constantinople that I have received a hog'shead of gold from Russia! (Laughter.) The press connected with the noble lords opposite has indulged in plain, direct accusations that I am the tool of Russia. Now it is a singular fact, that perhaps few public men in this country have ever written more, or with more acrimony, than I have against the Russian Government. (Laughter.) One of my hon. or right hon. calumniators in the press has accused me of betraying the interests of the country, as I did in the year 1829. Now this is rather an inconsistent accusation." Whatever he might have done in the present year, he could not have done so in 1829, for then he served under a man who knew something of the honour and interests of this country—[the Duke of Wellington]—a man whose confidence no one ever enjoyed more, and he was fortified by the knowledge that he had acted at present on the principles on which he believed that great man would have acted had he been alive. The party that acted with Lord Derby said that Lord Aberdeen was the author of the treaty of Adrianople, a treaty respecting which his despatches were thought to be so offensive to Russia, that Lord Melbourne objected to publish one of them in 1837! It is pretended, also, that the present Government is a sort of Russo-Austrian Government. No doubt, he was Ambassador at Vienna some forty years ago; but since that time he had no more relation to the Austrian Cabinet than to the Cabinet of Japan. But he was not afraid of being overruled when, without going so far as Mr. Fox had gone, he said that Austria was a natural ally of this country. He also desired to cultivate friendly relations with Russia, and deeply regretted the present position we occupy in respect to that power. He combated the assertion, that the Government ought to have kept the peace with a little more energy; that was a sort of "game of brag" which he did not admire. Here he made a similar explanation to that given by Lord Clarendon, that delay had given the Turks time to prepare; that the Sultan had not declared war; and that the Great German Powers had been induced to join with us. He asserted that indifference to the French alliance—another accusation founded, not on a speech of his, but the language of a journal—could not be charged against him. His settled opinions had always been to cherish the French alliance, under all

forms of government. "Who was the author of that expression which has so long passed current, the *entente cordiale*? It was introduced at the time when I was at the Foreign Office." Every one must make up his mind to misconception. In Russia it has been fully believed and loudly declared that Count Nesselrode has been a traitor to his country, and is in the pay of the English Government. With respect to Lord Clarendon's despatch, it would not have been communicated to the *Times* had not an incorrect version appeared in every paper in Europe; and with respect to the announcement of Lord Palmerston's resignation in the *Times*—[Lord Derby here, interrupting, asserted that the resignation was announced in the *Times* before even the Sovereign or Lord Palmerston's colleagues knew of the fact officially.] "The noble Earl," continued Lord Aberdeen, "will allow me to say that he asserts that which is not the fact." The article appeared on the day after Lord Aberdeen had seen her Majesty on the subject at Osborne. "How it came to be made public, I know not; but this I know, that her Majesty was informed of it before it so appeared." He understood that Lord Derby had announced his intention to extract from Ministers all the particulars connected with that transaction. "I hope he has not set his heart upon it very strongly, because he will certainly fail in extracting from me more than I think proper to state. (Cheers and laughter.) He said that her Majesty's Government must be much cleverer fellows than he thinks them, if he does not extract all the particulars of the transaction from us. Now, I am the last man to deny the cleverness of the noble Earl; but he must be a cleverer fellow than I think him, if he extracts more from me than I choose to tell him." (Great laughter and cheering.) In general terms, Lord Aberdeen stated that Lord Palmerston had tendered his resignation under the misapprehension that the provisions of the measure on Parliamentary reform were settled, when they were not. Explanations took place, and Lord Palmerston—"I was going to say resumed, but he had never, in fact, ceased to perform the duties of Secretary of State." Lord Derby had no right to know either the cause of difference or the means of reconciliation. "It may be matter of curiosity, or it may be matter of mischief, but there is no legitimate ground for inquiry." Lord Aberdeen next entered upon a statement respecting the disgraceful accusations against Prince Albert, which, however, was much more fully given by Lord John Russell in the House of Commons. In doing so, Lord Aberdeen roused the ire of Lord Derby, by referring the attacks to "that section of the press most devoted" to Lord Derby. Before Lord Derby could reply, Lord HARDINGE intervened, and, corroborating the statement of Lord Aberdeen, gave the most unqualified and soldier-like denial to the charge, that Prince Albert interfered at the Horse Guards.

Lord DERBY then declared that Lord Aberdeen had stated "the thing which is not," when he said these slanders had their origin in the Conservative portion of the press. The *Morning Advertiser* and the *Daily News*, Liberal papers, it was, and not the Conservative press, propagated these absurd reports. Lord Derby fully concurred in the statement that Prince Albert has not acted unconstitutionally. He is the necessary and natural adviser of the Queen. The Sovereign is not an automaton, but exercises a real, salutary, and decided influence over the councils of the country. If the Prince Consort interfered unconstitutionally—if he went counter to the advice tendered by the Minister to the Sovereign—the Minister must resign; if he did not, he would be responsible.

Lord CAMPBELL said, it is not as a Privy Councillor that Prince Albert gives advice, but as the *alter ego*, as the consort of the Queen.

The angry discussion as to the party newspapers continued; Lord ABERDEEN and Lord DERBY repeating what they previously asserted. The Earl of HARROWBY said that those abominable, incredible, and scandalous stories, had obtained a belief because they were sanctioned by the Conservative press; and he did complain that some of the Conservative leaders had not checked the currency of those slanders in Conservative papers. Lord MALMESBURY declared that was the most offensive speech he had ever heard in his life, as it implied that he had a connexion with the press.

The speech of Lord JOHN RUSSELL in the House of Commons has been greatly admired as a full, candid, and dignified explanation of Ministerial policy, and especially for its vindication of Prince Albert. He commenced by thanking the House, in the name of the Government, for the general spirit of moderation which had prevailed. Characterising Mr. Disraeli's criticisms of the address as "philological observations upon phrases," he proceeded to make some interesting remarks on the negotiations. The Vienna note was framed by the Government of France, modified by the Austrian Government, and accepted by the British Government as a means of securing the independence of Turkey. But the Turkish Government were able to show, not that in the plain sense affixed to it by the Four Powers, but in that sense which might be affixed to it by a jealous and hostile neighbour, it might infringe Turkish independence. The modifications suggested by Turkey were recommended to the Emperor of Russia; but the explanation given by Count Nesselrode of the sense put on the note by the Emperor was, that he would not recede from his pretensions, "but that he was ready to add to an unjust and unprincipled aggression something that I shall not hesitate to designate as fraudulent." (Loud cheers.) "I should be misleading the House," continued Lord John, "if I expressed a very confident expectation that the offers now made will be acceded to by the Emperor of Russia." But he might say, that in the terms now proposed there is nothing contrary to the integrity and independence of Turkey—for the Turkish Minister himself has signed the note. While "the British

Government are anxious to bring the question to a pacific termination, they are not disposed to let the Emperor of Russia so far take advantage of the time that may elapse, as that, while he is appearing to negotiate, he is really making warlike preparations which shall find us totally unprepared." (Cheers.)

"We have thought it would be an immense advantage if Austria and Prussia were to combine with us to prevent a war ensuing upon the aggressions that have been made by Russia. There has been published in the newspapers a protocol signed by the Ministers: that declaration does not fully meet the views of Great Britain, but still it is a great advantage so far as we can go together. I think it is not unlikely that the Government of Austria should perceive that war is imminent, and that the negotiations in which she has willingly taken part will not be successful in inducing the Emperor of Russia to desist from his purpose, and that nothing but a bolder measure and a stronger blow will enable her to aid in effecting this. I say that if the Great Powers—if Austria, seeing her interests, that are greater than those of England and France, and seeing also that the interests of Europe are involved in the settlement of the question, will, together with the King of Prussia, act cordially with us, there can be no doubt what the ultimate—the immediate results will be; I say that, considering all things, our time has not been lost. We have adopted measures of pacification for awhile; and everything which we could do, consistently with honour, we have done, in endeavouring to persuade the Government of Austria to take a more decisive course."

Lord John vindicated the course of the Government in proposing a Reform Bill. The precedent derived from Mr. Pitt's conduct is not applicable to the present time. The Reform Bill spoken of in 1793 was not adopted until forty years after; and certainly, "I cannot consent to a postponement of that length on the present occasion" (Hear and laughter.) Mr. Pitt was engaged in counteracting the spread of Republicanism: the complaint made against the French Revolution cannot be made against the Emperor of Russia; "for he is not engaged in spreading Democracy." (Laughter.) Lord John contended, that now is a fitting time to extend the franchise, especially if we are going to have a war with increased burdens. Let Mr. Disraeli bring in the bill he hinted at. When he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, he spoke of the expediency of giving the franchise to the working man, and we shall see whether he has maintained or departed from his doctrine. Passing from this topic, Lord John expressed a hope that he had not been wrong in supposing no member of that House would adopt or countenance the calumnies that have been spread respecting Prince Albert. (Loud cheers.) Had they been ordinary calumnies, they might have been left without notice; but there was so much "honest delusion" in them that he felt it necessary to make some statements with regard to the position of the Prince.

First, as to the charge of unconstitutional interference on the part of his Royal Highness. It has been generally admitted throughout the country, and by all persons, that there never was a sovereign who acted more strictly in the spirit of the constitution in the exercise of her prerogative than her Majesty. (Loud cheers.) Her Majesty has accepted the Minister whom she found approved of by the House of Commons, and to him has given her entire confidence. On her accession she found Lord Melbourne Prime Minister; and he had her complete confidence. Lord Melbourne was succeeded by Sir Robert Peel; and Sir Robert Peel enjoyed the entire confidence of her Majesty. It was my destiny to succeed Sir Robert Peel; and for more than five years during which I held that honourable position, I can say most truly that I received from her Majesty every support and every mark of confidence that a Minister could fairly expect; and I took occasion to express to her Majesty my gratitude for the kindness with which I was treated, and for the attention with which all my representations were listened to by her Majesty. Well, then, is it not a strange and incredible assertion, that, while her Majesty, having the Prince Consort by her side during the greater part of that time, had pursued a course of conduct entirely constitutional in respect to her Government, the Prince Consort could have been acting on the other hand in an unconstitutional manner? There is something entirely absurd and contradictory on the face of such a statement. But I do feel it necessary, owing to this honest delusion, which I said prevailed, to enter more into what is the position, not much defined in any of our law books, and not fenced by the usual guards of law and precedent. When her Majesty came to the throne, being then only eighteen years of age, and of course inexperienced in affairs, Lord Melbourne considered what it became him to do, when her Majesty was pleased to say that he should continue in the post of First Lord of the Treasury. It seemed to Lord Melbourne, that it was his duty to advise her Majesty on all subjects with respect to matters of domestic interest—with respect to the arrangements of the Palace, as well as with respect to the higher and ordinary duties of a Prime Minister. But, doubtful whether he had come to a right opinion, he resorted to the highest advice he could obtain; he went to the Duke of Wellington and stated his views. The Duke of Wellington entirely concurred with Lord Melbourne, and said that, if he held the office of Prime Minister, he should take exactly the course which Lord Melbourne had pointed out. About three years after her Majesty's accession, her Majesty espoused Prince Albert, the present Prince Consort. The position in which Prince Albert would stand was likewise matter of consideration. He was, as the House knows, naturalized by Parliament, and in such a manner that he could become a member of the Privy Council. Some doubts have been started on this subject; but everybody who looks into the subject is aware that Prince Albert was not only able but fully authorized to sit in the Privy Council. Lord Melbourne asked me—I am quite uncertain as to the date—as to the course that should be pursued with respect to despatches, and all the most secret communications of the Ministry. I said I had no doubt whatever that her Majesty should communicate them as she thought fit to the Prince Consort, and that I did not think that in his relation to her Majesty it would be fit to have any concealment. I am not sure, from recollection, whether Lord Melbourne or myself mentioned the subject at that time to the Cabinet; but I am perfectly sure, as far as Lord Melbourne and myself are concerned, that we thought it our duty to advise the Queen that such should be her conduct with respect to the despatches and communications. I think any other advice would have been foolish and unbecoming. It could not but happen that the Prince, after his marriage, would discuss public events with her Majesty; and, to fancy that he should only gather his in-



had been invited, and would have been present, but for a prior engagement at Pontefract. Mr. B. Schofield said, he had been requested by Mr. Montgomery to state, that his health would not permit him to attend the dinner. Mr. T. W. Rodgers returned thanks on behalf of the Vicar and clergy. Alderman Fawcett, Alderman Hoole, and the Rev. J. Breakey afterwards addressed the meeting. At the suggestion of Alderman H. E. Hoole, a subscription was started in the room towards liquidating the remainder of the debt, and £35 was raised in a few minutes. After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the company separated. In the evening, the Rev. John Kennedy preached to a crowded congregation, and after the sermon, a collection was made, amounting to £32. The opening thus far has realised £131.

**ORANGE-STREET CHAPEL, LEICESTER-SQUARE.**—The Rev. Edward Jukes, of Blackburn, has accepted a cordial invitation to become the pastor of this church and congregation, and proposes commencing his labours on the fourth Sabbath in March.

**LEWISHAM-ROAD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.**—On Thursday, January 26, a new chapel was dedicated to God for public worship, by special religious services. This chapel is 60 feet long by about 24 feet wide, substantially built in the Gothic style, and elegantly fitted up—having beautiful stained glass windows. This building is designed to be the school and lecture-room, and to form the appendages to a church, which is soon to be erected at a cost of about £5,000. The site was generously given by Capt. Drake, in a new and increasingly-peopled district of the town of Deptford, whose population is supposed to be about 34,000 souls. The Rev. G. Smith, Revs. W. J. Tyler, J. Russell, M'Farlane, J. Sherman, and W. Luey took part in the morning services. The Rev. T. Binney preached; Rev. J. Pulling gave out the Sanctus; and Rev. G. Rose concluded with prayer. After the morning service, about sixty friends were hospitably entertained at a sumptuous collation by Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Wire, at his elegant mansion; and the company were addressed on suitable topics by the worthy host, Apsley Pellatt, Esq., M.P., Revs. T. Binney, G. Smith, T. Timpson, J. Watson, M'Farlane, Dr. Massie; the Under-Sheriff, and J. M. Hare, Esq. In the evening service, the Rev. C. Stovel, in the absence of Dr. Archer by the death of his mother, preached; Rev. T. Binney gave out the closing chant, and concluded with prayer.

**VOLUNTARY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION.**—On Saturday last, the first quarterly meeting of teachers in Yorkshire and Lancashire, in connexion with the above association (of which J. Crossley, Esq., of Halifax, is president), was held at Bradford. Several communications from different gentlemen were read by Mr. Cursley, of Sheffield, the secretary, and an admirable paper on the "Objects of the Association," was read by Mr. A. Wood, of Thorston. The association is likely to be a great help to the teachers, and is deserving of support by all favourable to voluntary education.

### Correspondence.

#### A CHURCH JOB AT STOKE NEWINGTON.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Will you permit me through the medium of the columns of your paper to call the attention of Dissenting members of Parliament to a bill which is introduced this session for the erection of a new parish church in Stoke Newington. It is promoted by the rector and a considerable party in the parish, and receives, I am told, the cordial support of the Bishop of London. Yet it is a bill which is not by any means called for by the necessities of the parish; has been palmed upon the inhabitants by the most fallacious representations, and if allowed to pass, will certainly entail upon Dissenters the necessity of continued struggles against church rates, from which we have happily, until the advent of the present rector, been free. These operations will be understood when I tell you that the bishop proposes an expenditure of eleven of twelve thousand pounds, (which will probably reach to fifteen or twenty thousand,) in order to provide church sittings for two or three hundred people; when the accommodation required might be provided by enlarging the present church at an expense of fifteen hundred or two thousand pounds; or by the erection of a district church by voluntary subscription for four or five thousand pounds, most of which is already subscribed. The bill as it stands now has never passed the vestry, and the original resolution of the vestry which sanctioned the erection of a new parish church, made it a *sine qua non*, that nothing should be done which would render a rate necessary; in spite of which, the bill provides part of the funds by the mortgage of an estate, the annual income from which has of late years enabled us to avoid the annoyance and injustice of a rate. I will not occupy more of your space. This will be sufficient to put members of Parliament on their guard for the present, and steps are being taken to lay the case more fully before both Houses.

I am, yours obediently,

SAMUEL LUCAS.

Stoke Newington, Jan. 6, 1854.

#### RETURNS ON RELIGIOUS WORSHIP.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—Your abstract of the Census was a very able document, and its presentation to your readers was an act of generosity which ought to be appreciated.

There are, however, many of your readers who cannot be satisfied with anything short of the Census itself. Some have doubtless obtained it, but others have not done so, because they know not its price or where it may be obtained.

It would be well if the Reports which are from time

to time printed from Parliament could be thrown into the bookselling trade. Many of them are well worthy of the perusal of the reading public, and the price at which they are issued is generally so low as to place them within the reach of the multitude. Abstracts are generally inferior in contents and higher in price. For example: "The Results of the Census," published by Parker, at one shilling, does not contain half the information that may be found in the "Tables of the Population," &c., issued by Government at sixpence; and the "Papers respecting the Civil War in China," which may be had at the Parliamentary booksellers for sixpence, contain more valuable matter on that subject, than can be found in almost any of the pamphlets published at a much higher price.

Apart from its statistical tables, the "Census of Religious Worship" is at once the best and cheapest book on the religious denominations in England that has ever appeared. Many of your readers will be surprised to hear that, although it forms a handsome volume in large 8vo, the price is only two-and-sixpence. It may be obtained of Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, the printers, or of any Parliamentary bookseller. With a view to promote its circulation throughout the country, I have ascertained that Messrs. Biggs and Sons, 53, Parliament-street, will send it by post to any one who shall forward to them an order enclosing two-and-sixpence. The postage will be sevenpence, and may be paid on delivery.

I am, dear Sir, yours respectfully,  
YORK ROAD, LAMBETH. THOMAS DAVIES.

#### LONDON CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL BUILDING SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—Will you permit me to correct two errors in your report of the meeting of the London Congregational Chapel Building Society, held on the 25th ult. The Chairman is made to say, that "during the five years of its [the Society's] existence, the committee had received little short of £20,000 . . . ; but it ought to be generally known that this sum had been contributed by less than twenty individuals." It should have been "that half this sum," &c.

I am reported to have said, that: "in 1805 it was computed that there were [in London] sittings for about 1 in 15; it now appeared that there was accommodation for 1 in 5." What I did say was to the effect, that in 1805 it was computed that not more than 1 in 15 of the population attended public worship, while now the proportion was 1 in 5. Thus showing that, notwithstanding the present deplorable state of things in this respect, there had yet been a mighty improvement made within the last fifty years.

Hoping that some of your readers will be disposed to aid us in what is now proved to be one of the most necessary and important religious movements of the day, and one of the most effective means of advancing voluntarism and nonconformity.

I remain, dear Sir, yours respectfully,  
THOMAS DAVIES, Sec.

London, Feb. 6, 1854.

#### REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

On Wednesday, a deputation waited upon Lord Palmerston, at the Home Office, for the purpose of presenting the memorial agreed to at the late Birmingham conference on the subject of reformatory schools for juvenile criminals. The deputation comprised the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Earl of Harrowby, Lord Robert Grosvenor, Lord Lyttelton, Sir John Pakington, M.P., Mr. M. D. Hill, the Hon. A. Kinnaird, M.P., Mr. Adderley, M.P., Mr. W. Brown, M.P., the Mayor of Kidderminster, Mr. Bass, M.P., Mr. Packe, M.P., Mr. M. Milnes, M.P., the Mayor of Birmingham, Mr. Smith Child, M.P., Mr. J. Ball, M.P., the Hon. Mr. Liddell, M.P., the Rev. John Clay, the Hon. and Rev. G. M. Yorke, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Scholesfield, M.P., &c.

Sir John Pakington gave an interesting sketch of the various movements that had taken place on the subject of juvenile delinquency. More than two years ago, towards the end of 1851, a conference was held at Birmingham on this subject. Resolutions were passed stating the views that were expressed on that occasion; and, in the ensuing year, 1852, a committee of the House of Commons was appointed to inquire into the subject. It was then thought that the question was scarcely ripe for legislation. An inquiry was therefore appointed, and the committee conducted their proceedings during the latter part of the session of 1852. Again, in the last year, a committee was appointed, and, having sat through the greater part of the session, they embodied their opinions in a series of twenty-five or twenty-six resolutions. The report so arrived at, was followed up by another conference held at Birmingham, and that conference agreed to the memorial he now held in his hand. That document stated, that they considered legislation necessary for the encouragement of reformatory schools for children convicted of crime or habitual vagrancy, and that such schools should be promoted, not only by voluntary contributions, but by assistance from the state. It urged that, as a check to any possible encouragement being offered to parental negligence, it was necessary that a portion of every child's maintenance at a reformatory school should be recoverable from the parents. Lastly, it urged that power should be given in certain cases to apprentice children from reformatory schools, or to adopt other measures for enabling them to commence a course of honest industry; and the prayer of the memorial was, that the memorialists respectfully submitted these opinions, in the earnest hope that her Majesty's Government might originate and support such measures as may be found practicable in the course of the present session of Parlia-

ment with a view to carry them into effect. Whatever weight might attach to that conference, tenfold weight must be allowed to belong to the memorial, when it was found to be signed by gentlemen of high social standing and long experience, and by clergymen whose lives had been signalised by great exertions in this cause. From all parts of England and Scotland—and, he believed, he might say of Ireland—he learnt that the people were availing themselves of the opportunity afforded by that conference to embody their own views, in order to impress on the Government that the time had arrived when some public action—if only from motives of Christian duty—was necessary to promote that important object. Towards the close of last session, Mr. Adderley introduced a bill for this purpose, assisted by him (Sir John Pakington), but they felt that they could not carry into an Act of Parliament a measure introduced by two independent members at the end of a protracted session. With this feeling they resorted to the bill simply as a means of impressing upon the legislature the necessity of some such enactment. Various members of the deputation then made statements on the subject. Lord Robert Grosvenor said, that so impressed were the Middlesex magistrates with the importance of the subject, that, instead of waiting for the House of Commons, they embodied their own opinions in a bill, and they came to a resolution, that if some general measure could not be brought before Parliament, they would themselves endeavour to proceed with the bill. The Hon. Mr. Liddell held in his hand a petition signed by the mayor of Liverpool, on behalf of a very numerous and influential meeting held last Thursday, complaining of the inadequacy of the existing means for suppressing juvenile delinquency. A similar meeting had been held at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Mr. M. D. Hill said, he had written to every recorder, and from none had he received any dissent to the opinions put forth, but, on the contrary, the warmest approbation. Lord Lovaine observed, that in the county of Surrey the feeling was very strong in favour of some Government means being adopted to check the evil complained of. The Hon. A. Kinnaird expressed a similar sentiment in respect to Scotland, whilst the Earl of Harrowby and Mr. Ball, M.P., stated that in Ireland there was a strong desire for Government interposition upon this important subject. Mr. Adderley stated, that meetings in favour of the movement had been held in various parts of the country, and a memorial from the Quarter Sessions of Stratford had been presented to Her Majesty. Mr. Milnes said, there never was a question which had grown in public opinion by more legitimate means.

Lord Palmerston replied, that the question was so important and so interesting, and must have made so deep an impression on the mind of every man who had considered it, that one representative would have been sufficient to carry out the purpose of this deputation. He was quite convinced that this matter was one of the most important that ought to attract the attention and excite the action of the Government. It was manifest, that unless they could devise some method of reforming youthful delinquents they would be driven further and further in the course of punishment, and it was well known that punishment inflicted in mature years seldom produced the reform desired. With respect to the change which had taken place in secondary punishments, he observed that, in consequence of the colonies having refused to receive any more convicts, it was imperative on the Government to endeavour to stop the source of crime. He quite understood that a measure of this sort could scarcely be brought forward with any hope of success by independent members of Parliament, especially in the present session, which already presented a large bill of fare. But he was ready to admit that it was the duty of Government to undertake the question. At least he should feel it his duty to do so, and he would give his best attention to it. He hoped to receive the advice and co-operation of the other members of the Government, relying on the cordial support of those gentlemen present, as well as many who were absent who had turned their attention more practically to the subject. He hoped that in the course of this session that they should be enabled to pass into a law some measure which would put a stop to this growing evil.

The deputation cordially thanked his lordship, and retired.

#### THE PRESTON STRIKE.

There is observable a sudden compression in the newspaper reports of this unhappily prolonged affair, consequent on the meeting of Parliament. It appears, however, that while the operatives' fund continues to range at upwards of £3,000 weekly, the number of applicants for relief diminishes—124 last week, 161 the week before—a result of the active promotion of removals.

It was currently rumoured in the town that the Associated Masters purposed opening their mills on Monday morning. It proved, however, that the report was destitute of foundation. It was also considered probable that Mr. Gratrix, worsted manufacturer, would shortly resume work, but unfortunately the negotiations were suddenly broken off. After the operatives had agreed to accept the average prices of similar mills throughout Lancashire, they insisted upon the average being taken from all the mills paying the 10 per cent. advance. To this proposition Mr. Gratrix declined to accede. Both master and men are now engaged in obtaining lists of prices. Mr. Hollins continues to increase the number of his hands: he has 180 looms at work, and upwards of 130 operatives employed.

Exertions are made to establish an Agricultural College in Leicestershire. The system of instruction pursued is to be as far as possible of a practical character.



## Parliamentary Proceedings.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Reformatory Institutions, in favour of, 12.  
Medical Officers (Navy) for equality, 7.  
Turkey, for assisting, 3.  
Wine, for reduction of duties, 1.  
Marriage with deceased wife's sister, for alteration of law, 5.  
Decimal Coinage, in favour of, 2.  
Borough and Court Police, against consolidation of, 4.  
Ocean Penny Postage, in favour of, 3.  
Stage Carriage Duties, for alteration of, 1.

## BILLS PRESENTED AND READ A FIRST TIME.

Assessed Taxes Act Amendment Bill.  
Episcopal and Capital Estates Bill.  
Valuation of Lands Scotland Bill.

## BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

Assessed Taxes Act Amendment Bill.

## THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

Being able to insert only a brief summary of the debate on the address in our last number, and a portion of that having been unfortunately transposed in the hurry of "making up," we subjoin the principal points in the speeches of the Ministerial leaders in both houses. The Premier in the House of Lords was preceded by the Earl of DERBY, who strongly criticised the foreign policy of the Government; condemned their proposition of Parliamentary reform as inopportune, and made a party use of Lord Palmerston's resignation. The country had been left twelve days without a Home Secretary. Lord Palmerston's resignation was tendered and accepted, and afterwards he returned to office. Lord Derby called for explanations; arguing, that if the differences which led to the resignation were easily got over, then both parties have much to explain; and that if they were of vital importance, there must have been an abandonment of principle on one side or other. Which had given way, Lord Aberdeen or his colleague?

The Earl of ABERDEEN directly met the assault of Lord Derby upon himself and the Government, rebuking him for making comments founded on information quite inaccurate, and in many instances the reverse of true, without waiting for the diplomatic papers. He replied to the accusation—"the odious accusation"—that the Emperor of Russia had been misled by Lord Aberdeen's known reluctance to go to war with him. Lord Aberdeen was ready to repeat his declarations against going to war with any state, more particularly with Russia. The people of this country had not unfrequently engaged in wars rashly, of which they afterwards repented at leisure. The duty of Government was not, under all circumstances, never to engage in war, but to restrain feelings of popular indignation, even when natural and justifiable, as in the present case, within the bounds of prudence. War, to be justifiable, must partake of the character of self defence. That war should ever be just, proves the utter depravity and corruption of human nature; but it is sometimes just; and in regard to the preservation of the balance of power in Europe, the country may be considered as acting in self-defence when it preserves the relations of the various powers necessary to the security of all. "But this, I say, is an odious accusation; and it has been repeated over and over again, in quarters which are supposed to be much connected with the noble Earl [Derby] and his friends." On Lord Aberdeen had been concentrated the whole attacks of the press opposed to the Government: the actual Minister for Foreign Affairs had passed comparatively without observation. "It is said at Constantinople that I have received a hog'shead of gold from Russia! (Laughter.) The press connected with the noble lords opposite has indulged in plain, direct accusations that I am the tool of Russia. Now it is a singular fact, that perhaps few public men in this country have ever written more, or with more acrimony, than I have against the Russian Government. (Laughter.) One of my hon. or right hon. calumniators in the press has accused me of betraying the interests of the country, as I did in the year 1829. Now this is rather an inconsistent accusation." Whatever he might have done in the present year, he could not have done so in 1829, for then he served under a man who knew something of the honour and interests of this country—[the Duke of Wellington]—a man whose confidence no one ever enjoyed more, and he was fortified by the knowledge that he had acted at present on the principles on which he believed that great man would have acted had he been alive. The party that acted with Lord Derby said that Lord Aberdeen was the author of the treaty of Adrianople, a treaty respecting which his despatches were thought to be so offensive to Russia, that Lord Melbourne objected to publish one of them in 1837! It is pretended, also, that the present Government is a sort of Russo-Austrian Government. No doubt, he was Ambassador at Vienna some forty years ago; but since that time he had no more relation to the Austrian Cabinet than to the Cabinet of Japan. But he was not afraid of being overruled when, without going so far as Mr. Fox had gone, he said that Austria was a natural ally of this country. He also desired to cultivate friendly relations with Russia, and deeply regretted the present position we occupy in respect to that power. He combated the assertion, that the Government ought to have kept the peace with a little more energy; that was a sort of "game of brag" which he did not admire. Here he made a similar explanation to that given by Lord Clarendon, that delay had given the Turks time to prepare; that the Sultan had not declared war; and that the Great German Powers had been induced to join with us. He asserted that indifference to the French alliance—another accusation founded, not on a speech of his, but the language of a journal—could not be charged against him. His settled opinions had always been to cherish the French alliance, under all

forms of government. "Who was the author of that expression which has so long passed current, the *entente cordiale*? It was introduced at the time when I was at the Foreign Office." Every one must make up his mind to misconception. In Russia it has been fully believed and loudly declared that Count Nesselrode has been a traitor to his country, and is in the pay of the English Government. With respect to Lord Clarendon's despatch, it would not have been communicated to the *Times* had not an incorrect version appeared in every paper in Europe; and with respect to the announcement of Lord Palmerston's resignation in the *Times*—(Lord Derby here, interrupting, asserted that the resignation was announced in the *Times* before even the Sovereign or Lord Palmerston's colleagues knew of the fact officially.) "The noble Earl," continued Lord Aberdeen, "will allow me to say that he asserts that which is not the fact." The article appeared on the day after Lord Aberdeen had seen her Majesty on the subject at Osborne. "How it came to be made public, I know not; but this I know, that her Majesty was informed of it before it so appeared." He understood that Lord Derby had announced his intention to extract from Ministers all the particulars connected with that transaction. "I hope he has not set his heart upon it very strongly, because he will certainly fail in extracting from me more than I think proper to state. (Cheers and laughter.) He said that her Majesty's Government must be much cleverer fellows than he thinks them, if he does not extract all the particulars of the transaction from us. Now, I am the last man to deny the cleverness of the noble Earl; but he must be a cleverer fellow than I think him, if he extracts more from me than I choose to tell him." (Great laughter and cheering.) In general terms, Lord Aberdeen stated that Lord Palmerston had tendered his resignation under the misapprehension that the provisions of the measure on Parliamentary reform were settled, when they were not. Explanations took place, and Lord Palmerston—"I was going to say resumed, but he had never, in fact, ceased to perform the duties of Secretary of State." Lord Derby had no right to know either the cause of difference or the means of reconciliation. "It may be matter of curiosity, or it may be matter of mischief, but there is no legitimate ground for inquiry." Lord Aberdeen next entered upon a statement respecting the disgraceful accusations against Prince Albert, which, however, was much more fully given by Lord John Russell in the House of Commons. In doing so, Lord Aberdeen roused the ire of Lord Derby, by referring the attacks to "that section of the press most devoted" to Lord Derby. Before Lord Derby could reply, Lord HARDINGE intervened, and, corroborating the statement of Lord Aberdeen, gave the most unqualified and soldier-like denial to the charge, that Prince Albert interfered at the Horse Guards.

Lord DERBY then declared that Lord Aberdeen had stated "the thing which is not," when he said these slanders had their origin in the Conservative portion of the press. The *Morning Advertiser* and the *Daily News*, Liberal papers, it was, and not the Conservative press, propagated these absurd reports. Lord Derby fully concurred in the statement that Prince Albert has not acted unconstitutionally. He is the necessary and natural adviser of the Queen. The Sovereign is not an automaton, but exercises a real, salutary, and decided influence over the councils of the country. If the Prince Consort interfered unconstitutionally—if he went counter to the advice tendered by the Minister to the Sovereign—the Minister must resign; if he did not, he would be responsible.

Lord CAMPBELL said, it is not as a Privy Councillor that Prince Albert gives advice, but as the *alter ego*, as the consort of the Queen.

The angry discussion as to the party newspapers continued; Lord ABERDEEN and Lord DERBY repeating what they previously asserted. The Earl of HARROWBY said that those abominable, incredible, and scandalous stories, had obtained a belief because they were sanctioned by the Conservative press; and he did complain that some of the Conservative leaders had not checked the currency of those slanders in Conservative papers. Lord MALMESBURY declared that was the most offensive speech he had ever heard in his life, as it implied that he had a connexion with the press.

The speech of Lord JOHN RUSSELL in the House of Commons has been greatly admired as a full, candid, and dignified explanation of Ministerial policy, and especially for its vindication of Prince Albert. He commenced by thanking the House, in the name of the Government, for the general spirit of moderation which had prevailed. Characterising Mr. Disraeli's criticisms of the address as "philological observations upon phrases," he proceeded to make some interesting remarks on the negotiations. The Vienna note was framed by the Government of France, modified by the Austrian Government, and accepted by the British Government as a means of securing the independence of Turkey. But the Turkish Government were able to show, not that in the plain sense affixed to it by the Four Powers, but in that sense which might be affixed to it by a jealous and hostile neighbour, it might infringe Turkish independence. The modifications suggested by Turkey were recommended to the Emperor of Russia; but the explanation given by Count Nesselrode of the sense put on the note by the Emperor was, that he would not recede from his pretensions, "but that he was ready to add to an unjust and unprincipled aggression something that I shall not hesitate to designate as fraudulent." (Loud cheers.) "I should be misleading the House," continued Lord John, "if I expressed a very confident expectation that the offers now made will be acceded to by the Emperor of Russia." But he might say, that in the terms now proposed there is nothing contrary to the integrity and independence of Turkey—for the Turkish Minister himself has signed the note. While "the British

Government are anxious to bring the question to a pacific termination, they are not disposed to let the Emperor of Russia so far take advantage of the time that may elapse, as that, while he is appearing to negotiate, he is really making warlike preparations which shall find us totally unprepared." (Cheers.)

"We have thought it would be an immense advantage if Austria and Prussia were to combine with us to prevent a war ensuing upon the aggressions that have been made by Russia. There has been published in the newspapers a protocol signed by the Ministers: that declaration does not fully meet the views of Great Britain, but still it is a great advantage so far as we can go together. I think it is not unlikely that the Government of Austria should perceive that war is imminent, and that the negotiations in which she has willingly taken part will not be successful in inducing the Emperor of Russia to desist from his purpose, and that nothing but a bolder measure and a stronger blow will enable her to aid in effecting this. I say that if the Great Powers—if Austria, seeing her interests, that are greater than those of England and France, and seeing also that the interests of Europe are involved in the settlement of the question, will, together with the King of Prussia, act cordially with us, there can be no doubt what the ultimate—the immediate results will be; I say that, considering all things, our time has not been lost. We have adopted measures of pacification for awhile; and everything which we could do, consistently with honour, we have done, in endeavouring to persuade the Government of Austria to take a more decisive course."

Lord John vindicated the course of the Government in proposing a Reform Bill. The precedent derived from Mr. Pitt's conduct is not applicable to the present time. The Reform Bill spoken of in 1793 was not adopted until forty years after; and certainly, "I cannot consent to a postponement of that length on the present occasion" (Hear and laughter.) Mr. Pitt was engaged in counteracting the spread of Republicanism: the complaint made against the French Revolution cannot be made against the Emperor of Russia; "for he is not engaged in spreading Democracy." (Laughter.) Lord John contended, that now is a fitting time to extend the franchise, especially if we are going to have a war with increased burdens. Let Mr. Disraeli bring in the bill he hinted at. When he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, he spoke of the expediency of giving the franchise to the working man, and we shall see whether he has maintained or departed from his doctrine. Passing from this topic, Lord John expressed a hope that he had not been wrong in supposing no member of that House would adopt or countenance the calumnies that have been spread respecting Prince Albert. (Loud cheers.) Had they been ordinary calumnies, they might have been left without notice; but there was so much "honest delusion" in them that he felt it necessary to make some statements with regard to the position of the Prince.

First, as to the charge of unconstitutional interference on the part of his Royal Highness. It has been generally admitted throughout the country, and by all persons, that there never was a sovereign who acted more strictly in the spirit of the constitution in the exercise of her prerogatives than her Majesty. (Loud cheers.) Her Majesty has accepted the Minister whom she found approved of by the House of Commons, and to him has given her entire confidence. On her accession she found Lord Melbourne Prime Minister; and he had her complete confidence. Lord Melbourne was succeeded by Sir Robert Peel; and Sir Robert Peel enjoyed the entire confidence of her Majesty. It was my destiny to succeed Sir Robert Peel; and for more than five years during which I held that honourable position, I can say most truly that I received from her Majesty every support and every mark of confidence that a Minister could fairly expect; and I took occasion to express to her Majesty my gratitude for the kindness with which I was treated, and for the attention with which all my representations were listened to by her Majesty. Well, then, is it not a strange and incredible assertion, that, while her Majesty, having the Prince Consort by her side during the greater part of that time, had pursued a course of conduct entirely constitutional in respect to her Government, the Prince Consort could have been acting on the other hand in an unconstitutional manner? There is something entirely absurd and contradictory on the face of such a statement. But I do feel it necessary, owing to this honest delusion, which I said prevailed, to enter more into what is the position, not much defined in any of our law books, and not fenced by the usual guards of law and precedent. When her Majesty came to the throne, being then only eighteen years of age, and of course inexperienced in affairs, Lord Melbourne considered what it became him to do, when her Majesty was pleased to say that he should continue in the post of First Lord of the Treasury. It seemed to Lord Melbourne, that it was his duty to advise her Majesty on all subjects with respect to matters of domestic interest—with respect to the arrangements of the Palace, as well as with respect to the higher and ordinary duties of a Prime Minister. But, doubtful whether he had come to a right opinion, he resorted to the highest advice he could obtain; he went to the Duke of Wellington and stated his views. The Duke of Wellington entirely concurred with Lord Melbourne, and said that, if he held the office of Prime Minister, he should take exactly the course which Lord Melbourne had pointed out. About three years after her Majesty's accession, her Majesty espoused Prince Albert, the present Prince Consort. The position in which Prince Albert would stand was likewise matter of consideration. He was, as the House knows, naturalized by Parliament, and in such a manner that he could become a member of the Privy Council. Some doubts have been started on this subject; but everybody who looks into the subject is aware that Prince Albert was not only able but fully authorized to sit in the Privy Council. Lord Melbourne asked me—I am quite uncertain as to the date—as to the course that should be pursued with respect to despatches, and all the most secret communications of the Ministry. I said I had no doubt whatever that her Majesty should communicate them as she thought fit to the Prince Consort, and that I did not think that in his relation to her Majesty it would be fit to have any concealment. I am not sure, from recollection, whether Lord Melbourne or myself mentioned the subject at that time to the Cabinet; but I am perfectly sure, as far as Lord Melbourne and myself are concerned, that we thought it our duty to advise the Queen that such should be her conduct with respect to the despatches and communications. I think any other advice would have been foolish and unbecoming. It could not but happen that the Prince, after his marriage, would discuss public events with her Majesty; and, to fancy that he should only gather his in-



formation from newspapers and public statements, while her Majesty had all the despatches and official information, would be to suppose not only an absurdity, but a thing that would have been impracticable. (Cheers.) Such, then, being the position of the Prince, it is quite evident that there is no truth in the colour which has been attempted to be placed on his Royal Highness's relation to her Majesty in this respect—that Lord Melbourne constitutionally debarred the Prince from a knowledge of State affairs, and that Sir Robert Peel was the first person to introduce him to a knowledge of those affairs. I believe it is true that in Sir Robert Peel's time it first happened that his Royal Highness was present during the interviews which the Ministers had with the Queen; but the House will at once see, that if his Royal Highness, according to the advice of Lord Melbourne, was informed of all that was going on, and knew as well as her Majesty all that was taking place, his mere introduction into the closet when the Ministers had their communication with her Majesty, was merely a convenience, and added nothing to the principle adopted. (Cheers.) Naturally, if the Prince had not been present (he is usually present, but not always so) when the Ministers were with the Queen, her Majesty would have communicated to him what occurred. That would have been a circuitous report of what the Ministers had said, and, I think, a less convenient mode of communication than if his Royal Highness were present at the time; for I need hardly say, that his Royal Highness, having the intellect, the information, and the knowledge that belongs to him, it would have been quite impossible that her Majesty should not have spoken to him on every matter of great importance. I am now speaking generally of these relations, without any reference to the constitutional relations which exist between the Sovereign and her Ministers, because I stated at the commencement that there never had been any complaint that those relations were not properly conducted. Well, then, it was not Sir Robert Peel, but Lord Melbourne and myself, who advised (and we thought we were acting in the full spirit of the constitution in giving that advice) that his Royal Highness should be fully informed with respect to all affairs of a national interest. But did Lord Melbourne, when he went out of office, consider there was no advantage in her Majesty having that counsel? Be it remembered, that Lord Melbourne took on himself, at the accession of the Queen, during her youth, to give advice on every subject that came before her Majesty. At the time when Sir Robert Peel accepted the reins of office, her Majesty had been already married. It was on the 30th of August, 1841, that Lord Melbourne wrote to her Majesty in these terms:—"August 30, 1841.—Lord Melbourne cannot satisfy himself without again stating to your Majesty in writing, what he had the honour of saying to your Majesty respecting his Royal Highness the Prince. Lord Melbourne has formed the highest opinion of his Royal Highness's judgment, temper, and discretion; and he cannot but feel a great consolation and security in the reflection, that he leaves your Majesty in a situation in which your Majesty has the inestimable advantage of such advice and assistance. Lord Melbourne feels certain that your Majesty cannot do better than to have recourse to it when it is needed, and to rely upon it with confidence." (Cheers.) Such was the opinion which Lord Melbourne had formed of his Royal Highness's ability and character; and I may say that no one who ever had any intercourse with his Royal Highness could form any other opinion, but must appreciate most highly the judgment and ability of that distinguished personage. These are observations which I am called on to make; for be it recollected, that I am now speaking in defence of a Prince near the throne, who has been injured by anonymous scandal; and this is the first opportunity he has authorized any communication to be made. (Much cheering.) His Royal Highness then continued in the position I have mentioned, giving advice to her Majesty whenever it was needed, and assisting her Majesty whenever she thought assistance required; yet the most constitutional deference was at the same time paid to the advice of the Ministers. And be it observed, though it may have happened in the course of the reign of the Princes of the House of Hanover, that Ministers have been obliged to resign because they could not agree to something that the Sovereign proposed, or because they were obliged to tender advice which was not acceptable to the Sovereign, yet in the reign of the present Queen, the Administrations have always ceased in consequence of a vote of this House. (Cheers.) During my Administration, there occurred a case in which his Royal Highness had again to consider his position, and to determine what he should do with respect to a proposal that was made. I had some correspondence with the Duke of Wellington at the time when the office of Adjutant-General was vacant; and the Duke of Wellington went to Windsor and informed Prince Albert that it was his opinion that it would be a great advantage to the army, if, after his death, his Royal Highness were placed by her Majesty in the position of Commander-in-Chief. The Duke of Wellington said, that he had thought much on it; that all his feelings and wishes were for the good administration of the army; that the army peculiarly belonged to the Crown, and that he did not think its interests could in any way be so well cared for as in the case that Prince Albert would consent to be his successor. The duke added, that he wished to have a decision on the subject, because he would make such arrangements with respect to the office of Adjutant-General, and other offices at the Horse Guards, as would give to his Royal Highness all the assistance he would require. Prince Albert could not but feel it a great compliment to be told by the Duke of Wellington that he was a proper person to succeed him in the command of the army; but, after some reflection, he informed the Duke of Wellington, that he considered his place was to be always near the Queen—that he thought he ought to identify himself with her position and her interests, and that he would depart from that attitude if he sought to have any separate office of his own, more especially the important one of commander-in-chief, and thereby become responsible for other duties and the exercise of other powers than those which her Majesty had to perform. (Cheers.) Immediately after that answer was given, I had the honour of an interview with his Royal Highness, when he read to me a letter he had written to the Duke of Wellington; and I expressed my opinion that his Royal Highness had judged most rightly, and had correctly viewed his position. I think there were other reasons besides why Prince Albert should not have held the office of Commander-in-Chief: but it was quite unnecessary to state them, the reasons given by his Royal Highness being quite sufficient; and they showed that, while he considered that he ought not to be Commander-in-Chief, he likewise considered whether he could not be aid and assistance to her Majesty, and felt that he was bound to give his whole mind, intelligence, zeal, and ability, to that object. (Cheers.)

Lord John proceeded to refute the charge that the Prince interfered to produce the resignation of Adjutant-General Sir George Brown. The facts were, that Lord Hardinge and Sir George Brown differed as to the

weight a soldier should carry; and as his opinion was formed on that of the Duke of Wellington, Sir George thought he had better resign. He did so, and Lord Hardinge recommended the appointment of Sir George Cathcart as his successor. The Queen, however, acquiescing in that advice, expressed a hope that General Wetherall, son of an Equerry to the late Duke of Kent, might have been selected; and an intimation was conveyed to General Wetherall from the Queen, that it was from no slight of his services that her Majesty had acquiesced in the advice of Lord Hardinge. Sir George Brown, in a letter which was read, denied another of the calumnious newspaper statements. Lord John Russell said that the Prince has never been in the habit of corresponding with foreign ministers. Once a foreign minister, undesired and unrequested, wrote to him: the Prince immediately sent the letter to the Foreign Secretary, and desired to know what answer he should return. (Cheers.) Her Majesty is differently situated both from Queen Elizabeth and Queen Anne.

She is married to a Prince of singular attainments; and their domestic life is as good an example to all the Queen's subjects as her constitutional conduct is a model for all sovereigns. (Cheers.) Would any man believe me if I were to say, thus united, the Queen never consulted with the Prince Consort, whom I have just described, with respect to affairs that necessarily interest the fortunes of her crown, the welfare of her people, the happiness of her interior life, and our relations with many of those who are dear to her? No one would believe me if I made such an assertion. I say, then, I hope that in future there will be no delusion on this subject. There is no harm in telling truth, and the whole truth, with regard to this matter. Her Majesty and the Prince are inseparably united, and both with regard to public counsels and with regard to private affairs, they have no greater comfort than communicating with one another; and when the people of this country—always just in the end—have reflected on these matters, I think the result of these calumnies, base as they are, and of these delusions, blind as they have been, will be to attach the people of this country still more strongly to the Queen of this realm, and to give a firmer and stronger foundation to the Throne. (Great cheering.)

#### MIDNIGHT LEGISLATION.

At the sitting of the House of Commons on Wednesday morning, Mr. Brotherton made his annual motion on the subject of midnight legislation. He moved, that if any new business be brought on after twelve o'clock at night, and a member should rise and object to the House proceeding with the debate, a division shall be immediately taken on the question that the debate be now adjourned, unless the mover of the original motion should agree to its being postponed. Mr. Brotherton found that in 1849 the House sat 96 hours after midnight; in 1850, 108 hours; in 1851, 86 hours; in 1852, 61 hours; in 1853 no less than 133 hours. Foreign legislatures have the good sense to do their business by daylight, and it is monstrous that the British Parliament should be the only body of the kind which sits till such late hours. He believed the motion would facilitate the transaction of business, and save time utterly wasted in profitless debates on motions for adjournment. The present system inflicts serious injury on the health of many members. He hoped the House would try his plan for only one session. If it succeeded, well and good; if not, they could give it up.

Mr. WILLIAMS seconded the motion.

Sir JOHN PAXINGTON suggested that the committee appointed three years ago to consider the form and proceedings of the House should be revived. If the House met early in January, they would gain a fortnight or three weeks. It is a question whether the amount of public business has not outgrown the forms of the House.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL confessed that he felt the inconvenience of sitting late hours. Government does not wish to carry on their business at very late hours of the night. When Government brings forward business, and it is adopted by the House, it is important to settle it; but the privileges of members prevent Government measures from coming on until late at night. It was desirable that they should not decide on the single proposition of Mr. Brotherton, but have before them a plan that would secure to measures of great importance a fair consideration. He did not think the present motion would secure the end in view. It would be desirable to have a committee to deal with the whole subject.

Mr. HUME thought that no Committee was needed. Mr. WALPOLE and Mr. DENISON agreed that a committee was desirable. Mr. NAPIER jocularly suggested that no *Irish* business should be brought on after twelve at night; and seriously, that all bills on which Government had made up their minds should be laid on the table early in the session. Mr. BROTHERTON pressed his motion; and on a division it was negatived, by 84 to 54.

#### MANAGEMENT OF THE PUBLIC REVENUE.

Mr. GLADSTONE subsequently moved for leave to bring in a bill to alter the mode of providing for certain expenses now charged upon certain branches of the public and hereditary revenues, and upon the Consolidated Fund. He explained, that the bill derives its chief interests from its connexion with subjects not appearing on the face of it. The House would remember that there have been discussions as to the practice of defraying both the expense of collecting the revenue out of the receipts, and to defray out of those receipts a variety of other charges, without the supervision of Parliament; and last session Government intimated a readiness to consider a plan for submitting the expense of collection to the House with the other estimates. He hoped to redeem that pledge, during the session, as regards the Inland Revenue, the Customs, and the Post-office Departments. But in framing estimates, it is necessary to take cognizance of all charges on the revenue, such as pensions, which ought to be placed on the Consolidated Fund. The whole question of the better classification of the charges, as

between the Consolidated Fund and the Supply service, was also raised; and the principle on which he should proceed would be, to place or retain on the Consolidated Fund those charges for which that is a proper mode of provision, and to place all other charges on the annual estimates. When that is done, progress will be made towards establishing a perfectly clear, comprehensive, and accurate system of public accounts. "I am very far from saying that is all that is to be done." Much had been done in former years, and what remains he is satisfied he can complete without delay. "Even if I were not going to propose to the committee to vote by estimate the expense of collecting the revenue, this measure would still be reasonable and proper. It is occasioned by our contemplating other measures, but it stands perfectly clear upon its own grounds as a simplification of the public accounts, and as bringing the mode in which our charges are defrayed out of the revenue more in harmony with the principle which should govern our finances."

The assent was general. Mr. HUME said, nothing could give him greater satisfaction, for it was one of the things he had been aiming at for years. Mr. WILLIAMS thanked Mr. Gladstone for adopting the charge. Chancellors of the Exchequer for years had paid little attention to the subject. He must, however, except Mr. Disraeli.

Mr. DISRAELI approved of the motion. It attempted, in fact, to carry out suggestions and propositions that had been made by the late Government, and which, had they continued in office, it would have been their duty to carry out.

The motion agreed to *nem. con.*

#### THE VIENNA NOTE.

A conversation on "the Vienna note" arose on Thursday, in the House of Lords, out of a question put by Lord LYNCHURST, as to whether a representation of the transaction contained in a despatch from Count Nesselrode to Baron Meyendorff was correct. The statement of Count Nesselrode was, that the draught of the note was first sent to St. Petersburg for the assent of the Emperor of Russia; that he assented to it, without knowing whether it met with the approbation of the courts of Paris and London; that it was afterwards revised and altered by France and England, and then sent again to St. Petersburg. Was it the complete note that was transmitted simultaneously to St. Petersburg and Constantinople?

The Earl of CLARENDON repeated his previous statement—that the origin of the note was French; that, although thinking it not likely to be successful, the British Government, not wishing to object, assented to its transmission to St. Petersburg. Austria saw in the note a peaceful solution of the question; it was submitted to the representatives of the Four Powers, adopted by them, and transmitted simultaneously to St. Petersburg and Constantinople. Subsequently, at the suggestion of the British Government, one or two alterations were adopted by the Conference, and sent by telegraph to St. Petersburg, he thought, after the note had been sent to Constantinople.

Lord LYNCHURST said, his question had not been answered. What he wanted to know was, whether the draught note referred to by Count Nesselrode was sent to the Emperor of Russia with the concurrence of the Four Powers, or by the authority of Austria alone? His motive for putting the question was, that, in this crisis, unanimity on all sides of the House should prevail; and that unanimity could only be secured by putting the House in full possession of the facts. Was the draught of a note submitted for the assent of the Emperor of Russia before it was submitted for the assent of the Porte?

Lord CLARENDON rejoined, that he was ready to give all the information in his power. "What is called the draught of the note was what was some time before sent by the French government to St. Petersburg and Vienna, with the assent of the English government."

Lord BEAUMONT put the question in another form—was the French note in the first place, and without any alteration, agreed to by the British Government, sent to St. Petersburg without being sent to the Porte? To this Lord CLARENDON replied, that he rather believed the French Government did send a copy of the draught note to the Porte, but he could not assert it at that moment.

#### MERCHANT SHIPPING AND PILOTAGE.

In the House of Commons on Friday, Mr. CARDWELL, in a committee of the whole House, moved for leave to bring in two bills for the further amendment of the Navigation-laws: one bill "to strike off the last remaining fetters from the free navigation of the sea"—to throw open the coasting trade to foreign vessels; the other, to consolidate and amend those laws which, since the repeal of the Navigation Act, had passed for the benefit of British shipping. The second bill would consolidate the law with respect to registry and measurement, abolishing the registry-ticket, and introducing the greatly improved system of measurement known as Captain Moorsom's; also, with regard to the discipline of crews under the master; with regard to safety in better securing the certified competency of masters in the home as well as the foreign trade, and inquiry into accidents with the local assistance of the Trinity Board; and also with regard to lights and pilotage. He proposed to appropriate a small sum from the Board of Trade funds for the purpose of organizing the life-boats on the coast, so that more life might be saved. Mr. Cardwell reported that the recent changes in the Navigation-laws had worked well; not realizing the apprehensions of overwhelming foreign competition. Wages are higher than ever, and freights higher; there are not enough British ships for the purposes of the coasting trade; while fleets of foreign ships enter the Tyne in ballast. Last year, 190,000 seamen left the ports of the kingdom; and during the first three months of the operation of the new manning-clause there were only 2,500 foreign sea-



men. And our shipping trade and commerce increased by £2,282,639 in 1851, by £2,564,429 in 1852. It was on such grounds, that, after mature inquiry and deliberation, Ministers resolved to adopt the postponed measure of abolishing the exclusion of foreign vessels from our coasting trade.

The measures met with general concurrence: even Mr. T. H. LIDDELL only said he could not altogether approve the bill which abolished "the last rag of Protection."

The Committee having adopted the resolutions proposed, the House resumed, and ordered "a bill or bills" to be brought in for the purposes described above.

#### THE EASTERN QUESTION.

In the House of Lords, on Monday night, the Marquis of CLANRICARDE called the attention of the House to the state of the country with reference to the question of peace or war. He had intended to make some observations on the papers lately laid before Parliament, but, as a semblance of negotiation was still going on, all he wished to ask was whether any reply had been received from the Emperor of Russia to the last proposals forwarded from Vienna, and what was the present state of our diplomatic relations with Russia?

The Earl of CLARENDON replied as follows:—

"I feel under much obligation to my noble friend for the consideration he has shown in postponing any discussion which he thinks might operate prejudicially to the slight chances which still remain of maintaining peace. My noble friend is perfectly right in supposing that, although there was some reason to believe that the answer of the Emperor of Russia, or, rather the terms on which he stated that he would be prepared to negotiate for peace, had been received at Vienna, and were known there on Friday last, it was only this afternoon that I received from Vienna an official statement of the facts. It was only on the 2nd of this month that the Conference was called together and these proposals, or rather counter-proposal, of the Emperor of Russia were communicated to the representatives of England, France, and Prussia by Count Buol, and, as I have already stated, having received the official despatch on the subject only this afternoon, it is not yet in the hands of my colleagues; indeed, I have only had time to show it to my noble friend at the head of the Government, and therefore I would prefer not being compelled to enter into any details at the present moment. (Hear, hear, hear.) Nevertheless, I think it my duty to inform your lordships that the terms of the Emperor's proposal were quite unacceptable, and not of a character to allow of their being sent to Constantinople. (Hear, hear.) Upon this point no doubt existed for a moment in the minds of the members of the Conference. With respect to the second question which my noble friend addressed to me, I have to state that on Saturday evening Baron Brunow called on me at the Foreign-office and placed in my hands a note, in which he announced that the answer he had received from me to the inquiry he was instructed to make by his Government was not of a kind that permitted him to continue diplomatic relations in this country, and that therefore diplomatic relations between Russia and England were suspended. Baron Brunow took leave of me on Saturday evening, but it was then too late to depart from London, and I understood that he was to leave early this morning. I can assure my noble friend that I desire as earnestly as he can that the fullest information should be given on this and all other points connected with this important question, respecting which there naturally exists so much anxiety in the country; and in the course of the week I will lay before your lordships the note addressed to me by Baron Brunow on Saturday, together with the despatch from his Government and my answer, on which Baron Brunow's note is founded. (Hear, hear.)"

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH had always thought that the course pursued by the Emperor of Russia must result in war. He had no doubt that we were at the commencement of one of the most formidable wars in which the country was ever engaged, of the magnitude and probable duration of which people in general seemed not to be at all aware. Under these circumstances, it was absolutely essential that we should take the sea in the Baltic, at the breaking up of the ice, with an overwhelming force. He hoped the Government were prepared to do this.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE could not refrain from saying that in a material part of what has fallen from the noble earl he fully concurred. He agreed with him in thinking that the war in which it appeared they were about to engage would probably turn out to be one of the most disastrous on which they ever entered. (Murmurs, and cries of "No.") He did not mean to this country, but to humanity. (Hear, hear, from the Earl of Aberdeen,) on account of the grave and extensive consequences which must result from it. He urged the Government to fix that day week for a complete discussion of the subject.

Earl FITZWILLIAM thought the present state of things had lasted far too long. Whatever might have been the conduct of the Ministry during the earlier part of these negotiations, it was the duty of every man, in the present position of affairs, to give them all the support in his power:—

Whether Ministers deserve credit for the whole of the negotiations in which they have been engaged, or whether it be the opinion of any man that in some part or parts of the negotiations they may have failed, of this I am sure, that it is the duty of every man to give them the strongest support when they shall be engaged in that war with which the noble earl on the upper benches threatened us. (Cheers.) The noble earl on the upper bench said, it appeared to him that the country was not at all aware of the tremendous character of the conflict in which we are about to engage. Whether the country is aware of it or not, I will not now stop to discuss; but of this I am sure—and I am sure of it from the communications I have had, and have the means of having, from some of the most important communities in this country—that there never was a war in which the Government was more cordially supported than it will be in that in which we are about to engage. (Cheers.)

Lord BRAUMONT thought Lord CLARENDON might

have afforded the House fuller information on the subject, instead of a meagre statement.

The Earl of CLARENDON was sorry to find his noble friend thought his statement meagre:—

My noble friend seems to think—and so, also, did the noble earl (Fitzwilliam)—that I am holding out hopes and expectations that fresh negotiations may be entered into, and that peace may still be preserved. I can assure them both that I held out no such expectations at all. These negotiations have—as I informed the noble marquis—now been brought to a close at Vienna. I also stated, in my answer to the noble marquis, that I had received the official information of this fact only this afternoon, and at a period too late to enable me to communicate it to my colleagues, and that therefore I thought it better not to enter into details; but anxious, as far as possible, to satisfy your lordships' natural desire for information on this subject, I added that the new proposals put forward by Russia were wholly unacceptable—that they could not be transmitted to Constantinople, and that therefore there was an end of them. I have no reason to think that fresh negotiations on the subject will be renewed. It is true that Count Orloff, who arrived at Vienna some days ago, and was about to depart after having executed that particular part of his mission which referred to the relations subsisting between Austria and Russia, has now prolonged his stay; but what object he has in this I am really unable to state. With respect to the other question asked by my noble friend relative to instructions to her Majesty's Minister at St. Petersburg, I can only tell him that it was half-past six o'clock on Saturday when Baron Brunow called upon me, and as it was necessary in this, as in all other measures we have adopted, or shall adopt, to have previous communication with the French Government (hear, hear), it was not possible, at the moment, to send instructions to our Minister at St. Petersburg, but we have already held communication with the French ambassador on the subject, and instructions will be sent to Sir George Seymour and General Castelnau to-morrow, which will place them on exactly the same footing as the Russian Ambassador here, and diplomatic relations between the two countries and Russia will be suspended. (The statement of the noble earl evidently made a strong impression on the House.)

Their Lordships then adjourned.

#### PARLIAMENTARY OATHS.

In the House of Commons, on Monday night, Lord J. RUSSELL, in moving that the House do resolve itself into a committee to consider the oaths of allegiance, supremacy, and abjuration, and the oath taken by Roman Catholics, observed that his object was to induce the House to consider generally these oaths, with a view to substituting one oath, which should be as simple and intelligible as possible, and should bind the taker of the oath only to what he could engage to perform, instead of his being made guilty almost of profanation, by committing himself to objects some of which were no longer applicable to the present time. The oath of allegiance was an intelligible obligation, and he did not think that any objection could be taken to it; but, with regard to the other oaths, of supremacy and abjuration, they had been framed to meet certain dangers then existing, but they contained matters totally unnecessary to be affirmed at the present day, and what he proposed was to get rid of the superfluities—to act as in common life, and, when the danger had ceased, not to continue precautions which had become a mere mockery. He would, therefore, propose a simple oath which, he was sure, contained quite enough at least for the security of the crown. It is in these terms:—

I, A. B., do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to her Majesty Queen Victoria, and will defend her to the utmost of my power against all conspiracies and attempts whatever which may be made against her person, crown, and dignity, and that I will do my utmost to endeavour to disclose and make known to her Majesty and her successors all treasons and traitorous conspiracies which may be formed against her and them; and I do faithfully promise to maintain, support, and defend to the utmost of my power the succession to the Crown, which succession is established by an act intitled "An Act for the further regulation of the Crown, and the better security of the rights and privileges of the subject," as it stands limited to the heirs of the Princess Sophia; and I do hereby abjure allegiance to any other person claiming a right to the Crown; and I do declare that no foreign prince or potentate hath or ought to have any temporal or civil jurisdiction, directly or indirectly, in this Kingdom. So help me God.

Lord JOHN proceeded to defend two characteristics in this suggested form of words which challenged remark. He had eliminated from it the religious element, believing that the time was come when such simplification was desirable:—

The oath goes on to refer to a subject on which there has been much dispute: "And I do hereby disclaim and abjure any intention to subvert the church establishment, as settled by law, within this realm." Now, sir, that part of the oath has given rise to some painful discussions. It appears to me that those who are selected to make laws for the country should be at liberty to propose any alterations in our institutions which may seem to them desirable. (Hear, hear.) They may, in fact, propose the repeal of the union with Ireland; they may propose many changes which would be subversive of our most established institutions. To say, therefore, that they shall be prevented from making any proposal to subvert the church establishment of Ireland, is to go beyond what you have any right to demand from members coming to this house. Moreover, such a resolution leads to many painful discussions. Supposing certain members of this house think, as it is notorious they do, that the church establishment of Ireland is injurious to that country, and ought to be subverted, and supposing they act in accordance with that opinion, then they are immediately reproached with perjury for the attempt which they make to carry out their views. This does not prevent the attempt; because, while there are some Roman Catholics who consider themselves precluded by the terms of their oath from pursuing such a course, there are others who think that they are not precluded, and that, in full consistency with their oath, they may propose any change that they think proper with regard to the temporalities of the Irish church. (Hear, hear.) Now I do not think that ought to be added to the difficulties of a political question; I think it ought to be in no man's conscience that he is not at liberty to give his vote in both temporal and spiritual matters as he may think fit. (Hear, hear.) The declaration goes on to say that the person taking it will do nothing to disturb or weaken the Protestant religion, or the Protestant government of the United Kingdom. Now, sir, with regard to that question, there are many who hold that no vote which may be given by the House, no exer-

cise of an official conscience, can weaken the Protestant religion. It has been maintained both by Roman Catholics and Protestants, that religion, if it is binding on the conscience, will not be disturbed or weakened by any law that may be passed in this house. (Hear, hear.) Now, I do not say that they are right in holding that opinion. What I say is, that this is not a fit subject for an oath—(hear, hear)—that an oath only entangles men's consciences, only makes them doubt as to the real value of what is imposed upon them; and that, in fact, it gives no security either to the Protestant religion or to the Protestant government. (Hear, hear.) If a great majority of this house were opposed to the Protestant religion or the Protestant government, an oath would give no security. (Hear, hear.)

He had also omitted the words, "on the true faith of a Christian." That phrase had no other effect than to prevent a Jew from sitting in Parliament. He repeated what he had often urged, that these words were introduced into the oath, not for the purpose of excluding persons of the Jewish religion, but to bind Roman Catholics, and especially Jesuits, to the substance of the oath—namely, to bear due allegiance to the authority of the Crown, and he insisted upon the injustice of disabling any class of subjects by the casual operation of the law. He read the opinions of Mr. Baron Parke and Lord Lyndhurst, which he considered unanswerable. He then proceeded to refer to eventualities:—

If the Legislature should not think proper to make any alteration in the oath; if they should enact a new oath, by which every one who takes it will expressly declare himself to be a Christian, the law would be settled, and not a word could be said by the minority, who, like the majority, would be bound by that decision. But if you keep the oath as it is—if no legislation takes place on the subject, I think the house will be bound to re-consider the position in which a person is placed who comes to the table and says that that form of oath is not binding on his conscience. In the case of a person who came immediately after the Revolution of 1688, and declined to take the oaths, a new writ was at once moved for, and the party so declining was excluded from Parliament. In the case of Mr. Pease, you appointed a committee, and that committee came to the opinion that Mr. Pease ought to be allowed to take his seat after making an affirmation. There appeared to be considerable doubt as to the law in that case, but those who were most in favour of admitting Mr. Pease, proposed and carried a bill by which the law was settled, and under which persons who would make an affirmation might in future be admitted. I think if the law should remain in its present state—with these remarkable declarations of Baron Alderson on the bench, and of Lord Lyndhurst giving a solemn, clear, and deliberate opinion in the House of Lords—it would be for you to consider whether or not you, sitting in this house, with respect to your own members, have not as good a right to say in what form an oath should be taken, as Lord Hardwicke, sitting in his court, had to decide in the case of *Oramonde v. Parker* what was the form of oath to be taken before him. (Cheers.) I wish to come to no immediate or hasty decision, but I do say that I think it may hereafter be a question for the House of Commons whether it shall not prefer the course which was taken in the case of Mr. Pease to that which has since been taken with respect to two gentlemen of the Jewish persuasion. (Cheers.)

Sir F. THESIGER postponed, until a future stage, offering any opposition to the measure, but briefly indicated some of the principles on which he should hereafter strenuously resist the proposition of the noble member for London.

The motion being carried, the House went into committee, and leave was given to bring in the bill.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, Lord LYNDHURST, premising that at the end of last session it was agreed that the opinions of the judges should be taken with respect to a bill for the amendment of the Criminal Law, inquired whether those opinions had been taken, and whether the Lord Chancellor would lay them on the table? The LORD CHANCELLOR explained, that Lord Lyndhurst was in error in supposing that the house had directed the opinions of the judges to be taken on the subject; although it was true that application had been made for the opinions of the judges, under these circumstances. The bill introduced by Lord St. Leonards for codifying the Criminal Law, had been referred to a Select Committee, comprising all the law lords and certain lay lords interested in the subject. That committee worked at the bill for eleven days, and did not conclude its labours. The bill appeared to him unsatisfactory; yet it was as perfect as any measure could be after having been considered by a Select Committee. He had therefore requested the judges to tell him their opinion as to whether the consolidation of the Criminal Law, in a degree of perfection of which that bill was the type, would be an improvement or otherwise. Nearly all the Judges had sent in replies; and when those still wanting had been supplied, he would lay them all on the table.

The Marquis of BLANDFORD, on Thursday, moved for a leave to bring in a bill to make better provision for the management of Episcopal and Capitular property. With one exception, this bill is similar to the bill he introduced last year. The modification introduced would enable an ecclesiastical corporation, whether aggregate or sole, to apply Episcopal property for the relief of the spiritual wants of the district in which it is situated. Lord JOHN RUSSELL assented to the introduction of the bill; and expressed himself gratified to find Lord Blandford devoting so much time and attention to a question so very important.—Leave given.

In reply to a question from Mr. WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Lord PALMERSTON said, he hoped at an early period of the session to resume the Metropolitan Sewers Commission Bill. It would reconstruct the Board of Sewers Commissioners, and infuse into it the principle of local administration.

New writs have been ordered for the University of Oxford, in the room of Sir Robert Inglis, who has accepted the Stewardship of the Manor of Northstead: for Louth, in the room of Mr. Chichester Fortescue, appointed a Lord of the Treasury; for South Staffordshire, in the room of Lord Lewisham, called to the House of Peers; for South Shropshire, in the room of



Mr. Clive, deceased; for West Sussex, in the room of Mr. R. Prime, who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds; and, on Thursday, for Ludlow, in the room of Mr. Robert Clive, who has resigned.

On the motion of Lord JOHN RUSSELL, it was ordered that no new writs for Barnstaple, Cambridge, Canterbury, Hull, Maldon, and Tynemouth, should be issued before the 9th of March.

Lord PALMERSTON has promised to introduce a measure to deal with the abuses of burial societies.

The LORD ADVOCATE has obtained leave to bring in a bill for the valuation of lands and heritages in Scotland. No alteration has been made in the laws respecting valuation of lands and heritages since 1670. By this bill, the Commissioners of Supply in counties and the Magistrates in boroughs would be authorized to make a valuation of the real property within their limits, to be revised from year to year. He believed the bill would work more economically than the present system. The Commissioners and Magistrates would form a court of appeal against the valuation.

In reply to Mr. FAGAN, Lord JOHN RUSSELL stated that it is not the intention of Government at present to introduce any measure for reforming Dublin University; but it is matter for consideration.

Colonel SIBTHORP will, on an early day, propose a reduction of the duty on fire insurances.

Mr. FAGAN is, as soon as possible, to bring in a bill for the total abolition of the minister's money in Ireland.

Mr. CARDWELL has promised a Government measure in the course of the session for the better prevention of railway accidents.

Mr. BRIGHT, on Friday, called attention to a statement which had appeared in the public papers, to the effect that a person in Edinburgh, whose house had been broken into by robbers, had been committed to prison for thirty days by the sheriff, because he had, from conscientious objections, refused to be sworn. No doubt the sheriff had acted according to law, but, as it was stated last year, that Government would introduce a bill to enable magistrates to dispense with the administration of oaths where conscientious objections to taking them existed, he wished to ask the noble lord whether he could not let this man, who belonged to a sect called the Plymouth Brethren, to go back to his shop and business. Lord PALMERSTON thought the case to which the hon. member referred was one in which a person, not exempt from giving evidence on oath by law, had declined to take the legal oath, and had thereby defeated the ends of justice; and for that offence he had been subjected to a certain period of imprisonment. He would, however, look into the case again, and see if there were any grounds on which the imprisonment might be shortened.

Mr. PELLATT asked whether her Majesty's Ministers contemplated making the Thames tunnel available for carriage and heavy traffic, for which it had been designed. Sir W. MOWATSON replied, that the Thames tunnel was not public property. It was true that about £450,000 had been spent out of the public purse to complete the tunnel, but he was afraid it would never be repaid. (A laugh.) Under the circumstances, he could not recommend the Government to make the tunnel available for the purposes mentioned by the hon. member, nor had the Government any intention of doing so.

Lord PALMERSTON has promised a bill for the consolidation of the militia, and for the organization of that force in Scotland and in Ireland.

On the subject of the irregularities of mail trains, Mr. J. WILSON said it was proposed by the Postmaster-General to have a system of mutual fines between the railways and the Post-office in the case of irregularities on the part of either; for he must say the irregularities were not always on the side of the railways. Mr. SPOONER wished to know who was to pay the fine, the Postmaster-General or the public. (Laughter.) Mr. WILSON—Of course it would be no part of the duty of the Postmaster-General to pay fines which were incurred by the office in discharging its public duties.

The Criminal Code of Malta was the subject of a question in both Houses on Monday night. Lord JOHN RUSSELL said that great objection was taken in the House last year to some of the enactments in the old code, and which were considered to be reasonable objections with respect to that part of the code. The result was that a new code was enacted, in which the whole of the chapter relating to religious offences was omitted.

The promised measure, of Parliamentary Reform, to be brought in next Monday, has not escaped notice. Lord JOCELYN having given notice that he would, on Friday next, ask Lord John Russell whether, in the present state of the foreign relations of the country, he would bring forward the measure of reform of which he had given notice for Monday next? Lord J. RUSSELL—I will answer that question on Monday. (Laughter.) In reply to a question from Mr. BAILLIE, Lord J. RUSSELL stated, that it was the intention of the Government to introduce a Reform Bill for Scotland during the present session, and that the Lord-Advocate was engaged in the preparation of that measure. In reply to a similar inquiry made by Mr. FRENCH as regarded Ireland, Lord J. RUSSELL made an affirmative gesture. On the 16th instant, Sir FITZROY KELLY is to move for leave to bring in a bill to regulate the practice at elections of Members of Parliament, and to prevent bribery, corruption, and intimidation, which had so extensively prevailed at the last general election. In reply to Sir F. KELLY, Lord JOHN RUSSELL stated that the Government were in possession of the returns of electors registered in England and Wales under the last registration. He had no objection to laying the returns on the table, but he did not think they would be ready before Monday next. They would be ready before the second reading of the Reform Bill.

Mr. WISE, on Monday, asked three questions of the

Commissioner of Public Works. First, whether any grant of money or land had been made for the embassy church in Paris; secondly, whether the stables of the embassy had been, or were to be, converted to that use; and thirdly, whether any Treasury minute was in existence, made during the administration of Sir R. Peel, recommending the British Government neither to build nor purchase new churches in foreign countries. Sir W. MOWATSON replied to the first query that no grant had yet been made, but an application was received, in support whereof a report was demanded and promised, but this report was not delivered. To the second question he replied with a direct negative; and answered to the third, that no such minute could be found in the Treasury archives. In reply to Mr. PHINN, Lord PALMERSTON said Government had no present intention of bringing in a bill for the more effectual prevention of assaults upon women and children. Sufficient time had not elapsed to enable the Government to judge of the effect of the law of last session. The six months' imprisonment had not yet, in many cases, expired, and he considered it would be better to wait to see the effect of the last act before proceeding with further legislation.

#### WARLIKE SYMPTOMS.

At a late hour on Saturday afternoon, Baron Brunow had an interview with the Earl of Clarendon at the Foreign-office, for the purpose of formally suspending the diplomatic relations of the Emperor of Russia with Her Majesty's Government. The Russian Minister will immediately withdraw from this country with all the members of the Legation, who are to repair, we believe, to different towns in Germany; the Russian Consul-General will, however, remain for the present to transact the commercial business of his office. The recall of an Envoy does not constitute a declaration of war, and it must be followed by more decided measures on the one side or the other before a state of war can be said to exist between the two empires. The first measure taken by the British Government on the eve of a rupture with a foreign Power has commonly been to stop by Order in Council vessels clearing out from British ports for the ports of the hostile Power; but the present state of our relations with Russia has long been so well known to the public that we are informed no vessels are clearing out of our ports for that country, and the trade is virtually suspended.—*Times*.

It is understood that Baron Brunow proceeds to Darmstadt, the reigning sovereign of that territory being connected with the Russian Imperial family by ties of blood. Baron Brunow is a very old servant of the Imperial Court, more than thirty years of his life having been spent in diplomatic employments under the present Emperor and his predecessor. During more than fourteen years, his Excellency has transacted business with no less than five Administrations—those of Lord Melbourne, Sir R. Peel, Lord J. Russell, Lord Derby, and Lord Aberdeen.

M. Kisseloff, the Russian Ambassador at Paris, is to go to Brussels.

More packages and medical stores were sent out for the Black Sea fleet on Saturday.

The *Times* of yesterday describes the warlike preparations now being made in the following terms:—The notes of preparation are heard on all sides, and in a few weeks the Emperor of All the Russias will find himself everywhere face to face with an indignant antagonist, that antagonist being little less than the whole civilised world. We need not refer to the vast preparations reported from the other side of the channel; for France will be only too ready to beat us in the race of honour. Our own army is immediately to be augmented by 11,000 men. The navy afloat is already the most powerful ever possessed by England. Seamen are coming in rapidly, attracted partly by the improved condition of the service, partly by the prospect of prize-money at the breaking out of the war. Coast-guards, to the number of 1,500, are immediately to be embarked as a nucleus for the crews of the newly-commissioned ships. They are admirably adapted for this purpose, being trained seamen, and the more necessary now, as good hands are apt to be slow to join a raw and incomplete crew, in which there is plenty of hard work, and that not of the most agreeable kind. By the time the Baltic is free, and the ice is already breaking up, the strongest fleet its waters ever bore will shut up the Russian at his northern outlet as effectually as he is now closed in the Black Sea. The command is, we believe, to be given to Sir Charles Napier, and under him we shall have Captain, now Admiral Chads, of the *Excellent*, who has done so much to bring naval gunnery to its present perfection. At the next council, perhaps to-day, a proclamation will be issued against manufacturing or supplying arms, ammunition, and ships of war to the enemy, with a warning that such will be seized by the British Government. A few days will remove all doubt, and the Russian, sealed in his own ports as effectually as by his own winter's ice, will have no way of egress except over the territory of States who have already declared that such forcible passage shall be considered a declaration of war.

A plan is said to be in contemplation for establishing a Minister of War in this country, who should be charged with the affairs of Army, Navy and Ordnance. Major General Sir Joseph Thackwell has been summoned from Ireland, with the view, it is said, of being appointed to a command in the event of hostilities.

Sir Stephen Lakeman, who commanded the Waterkloof Rangers at the Cape of Good Hope, arrived in Paris some days ago on his way to Constantinople, to take the command of a large body of troops in Asia. He has now left for the Turkish capital, but during his stay in Paris he was for some time engaged in inspecting, with the permission of the Minister of War, the

improved drill and arms of that formidable corps the Chasseurs de Vincennes.

The "Hecla," steam-sloop is preparing at Woolwich to take a large staff of masters of the navy, to make careful surveys and soundings of the approaches to the Baltic. Every available master and second master of the harbour squadron will be sent out in the Hecla, to get a practical knowledge of the pilotage in the northern waters.

The greatest activity prevails in the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. A deputation of superior officers has been on a tour through the country to ascertain the resources of the manufacturers of every description of munitions of war, and their capabilities of executing any orders entrusted to them in a limited time, in the event of hostilities with any of the Continental powers.

A committee of engineer officers have reported unfavourably on the employment of mail-packet steamers for war purposes. "After taking a deliberate view of the whole question submitted to us (they say), we have arrived at the conclusion that the ships referred to, provided they could be spared, would serve the purposes of armed troopships, and might occasionally be used, in the event of war, in our colonies abroad." This opinion refers specially to the vessels belonging to the Peninsular and Oriental and the Royal West India Mail Company. The committee extended their inquiries to the vessels of the British and North American Company, the Pacific Company, the General Screw Steam Shipping Company, the Australian Company, the South-Western Company, and the African Company. The committee found that out of ninety-one vessels employed as mail contract steam-packets belonging to these eight companies, there were only sixteen which they could report with any degree of confidence to be available on an emergency for auxiliary war purposes (not taking iron vessels into the account); that of the sixteen there were eight belonging to the British and North American Company, which at a cost of about £3,000 each, and within a period of not less than a fortnight, might be rendered fit for temporary service as war steamers; that the other eight might on a great emergency be employed for defensive purposes, and might be fitted for any pressing service at a cost of from £600 to £800 each within about a fortnight.

The recruiting for the naval volunteer force is said to be going on very successfully on the Scottish coasts.

It is said that the Admiralty has some intention of building an immense screw-line of battle ship, capable of carrying 250 guns.

Four ships of the line, four frigates of the heaviest classes, and five smaller class vessels,—a powerful squadron in themselves—are now on the stocks at Pembroke dockyard.

The *Shipping Gazette* states, that a number of Russian ships at Liverpool have been sold to British subjects, and taken over with the officers and crews to be navigated under the British flag. Information on the subject has been forwarded to the Board of Trade.

It is remarked in reference to the talk about Russian resources, that while the Russian fleet has been the work of years, England, during the past year, completed and commissioned the following powerful screw steam-ships:—The Duke of Wellington, 131 guns, in February 1853; the St. Jean d'Acre, 101, in May 1853; the Royal George, 120, in October 1853; the Princess Royal, 90, in October 1853; and the Cressy, 80, in December 1853. In the present year, although one month has only just expired, three line-of-battle screw steam-ships have been commissioned:—the James Watt, 90, in January 1854; the Cæsar, 90, in January 1854; the Nile, 90, on February 2, 1854. Within a few more months, the following, now nearly ready, will be commissioned, if required:—the Royal Albert, 131, to be launched in April next; the Marlborough, 131; the Hannibal, 90, launched at Deptford; the Orion, 90, ready for launching at Chatham; the Algiers, 90, at Devonport; the Majestic, 80, fitting at Sheerness; and the Irresistible, 80, in an advanced state at Chatham.

#### Postscript.

##### LAST NIGHTS' PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords yesterday, Lord MONTEAGLE alluded to the increasing frequency and deplorable consequences of railway accidents, and pressed for the publication of earlier returns of these catastrophes by the Board of Trade. He trusted that the Government intended to fulfil their promise of bringing in a bill for the better prevention of such occurrences in future. Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY said that a bill on the subject would shortly be laid before the House of Commons. After a few remarks from Earl Grey and Lord Campbell, the subject dropped.

The Earl of HARDWICKE called the attention of the House to the inefficient state of the active Admirals' list, the youngest of whom was 75 years of age. The noble earl concluded a laborious speech on this and other points connected with the service, by moving for a select committee to inquire into the subject. The Earl of ABERDEEN admitted many of the evils complained of, but declared that after the fullest inquiries and examination he had come to the decision at which all preceding Boards of Admiralty had arrived, that upon the whole the present system, although attended with individual cases of hardship, was nevertheless



the most just and advantageous to the service that had been proposed. After some remarks by Lord Colchester and the Earl of Ellenborough the motion was withdrawn.

Their lordships then adjourned.

In the House of Commons, in reply to Sir E. LACON, Lord PALMERSTON announced the intention of the government to bring in a bill on the subject of Church Rates during the present session.

In reply to Mr. ADDERLEY Lord J. RUSSELL said that it was not the intention of the Government to introduce the Education Bill of last session, but to wait and see what would be the effect of the measure to be introduced by the Lord-Advocate. When the House had declared its opinion on that, then the Government thought there would be a fit opportunity of proceeding with any general measure of education. With reference to pauper schools, there was a measure under consideration.

Mr. T. S. DUNCOMBE gave notice that on that day fortnight he should move for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relative to the arbitration of disputes between masters and workmen.

Mr. COLLIER moved for leave to bring in a bill "to define and regulate the cost-book system in mines, and to limit in some degree the liability of partners in cost-book mines." The hon. member detailed some of the inconveniences and responsibilities attending partnership enterprises under the existing law, and enforced the expediency of contriving some means of introducing a system of limited liability. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, without pledging himself to details of the proposed bill, approved of the principle of limited liability, if carried out with proper precautions, and stated that the Government were themselves considering the subject. The motion was supported by Mr. Hume, Mr. Moffatt, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Vivian, and Lord Goderich. It was opposed by Mr. Brown. Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

Sir J. PAKINGTON moved for a select committee to consider whether, by any alterations in the forms and proceedings of this House, the despatch of public business could be more effectually promoted. Sir G. GREY did not oppose the motion, but felt bound to caution the House not to expect any great advantage from this committee, whose inquiries would be confined to public business, whereas the chief obstruction arose from the great pressure of the private business. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. BRADY obtained leave to bring in a bill for the registration of qualified practitioners, and for amending the law relating to the practice of medicine.

On the motion of Mr. COWPER, leave was given to bring in a bill to authorise the construction of a tunnel between the dockyard at Devonport and Keyham yard.

Mr. M'MAHON obtained leave to bring in a bill for the improvement of the Irish fisheries, and Mr. SOTHEBON one to regulate Friendly Societies.

Mr. I. BURR called attention to an article published in the *Times* on Monday last, and to a previous publication in the *Dublin Freeman's Journal*, in which a trafficking in places was imputed to members of that House, as a breach of its privileges. He stated the substance of the charge contained in the last-named publication—namely, that the patronage of the Crown had been sold by Irish members of that House, and he urged that the matter ought to be investigated, in order either that this scandalous charge should be shown to be without foundation, or, if true, that the guilty parties should be punished. He formally complained of the publications as a breach of the privileges of the House, and moved that they should be read by the clerk at the table. This having been done, Mr. Butt moved that it be referred to a committee of privileges to examine and report upon the allegations. Mr. J. O'Connell seconded the motion, heartily concurring in the inquiry, believing that the charges would be found miserable calumnies. Lord J. Russell observed, that the House could not refuse to accede to the motion, out of regard to its own honour, the character of the Government, and that of the Irish members involved in the sweeping denunciation. Having the names of the parties (Dr. Gray and Mr. Kelly) by whom the charges were made, the House had the means of investigation, and he hoped the matter would be probed to the bottom. Mr. LUCAS entered without reserve into the *arcana* of alleged exercise of corrupt influence over Irish members, which he described as the *rationale* of the relations between the Whig Government and a branch of the Irish representation. Mr. T. DUNCOMBE referred to the statement on oath of a member of the House, in Chancery, in the case of "the York and North Midland Railway Company v. Hudson," that a sum of money had been expended in shares given to persons of influence connected with Parliament to secure their good offices in connexion with the operations of the company. He called upon the Government to have this charge investigated, as well as the others. The motion was then agreed to.

The other business having been disposed of, the House adjourned at a quarter to eight o'clock.

#### RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

A telegraphic message from Paris, dated yesterday, says:—"M. de Kisseleff quitted Paris yesterday

evening for Brussels by the express train. He expects to meet Baron Brunow in that city. All that has been rumoured of the ill success of the mission of Count Orloff is now confirmed. It is not likely that he will prolong his stay, but will, it is said, take his departure direct for St. Petersburg. Foreseeing the same rebuff at Berlin, he will refrain from visiting that capital."

According to the *Times* the Austrian Government did not hesitate to declare to Count Orloff that the Protocols, which had been drawn up by England and France at Count Buol's own request, were the true basis of the conduct that minister is resolved to pursue; that any infraction of these principles would be dishonourable and impolitic; and that the Emperor Francis Joseph will adhere to these conditions even at the hazard of war. Nevertheless, letters from Vienna of the 4th report that the Austrian cabinet will not at present bind itself either to Russia or the West, but adheres still to its earlier principle, "not to take part in the strife so long as the interests of the empire itself is not endangered."

From St. Petersburg, under date Jan. 22nd, it is said that the Emperor, who is fully aware of the position in which he is placed, will endeavour to avoid a general conflagration, if he can only preserve his honour and his rights. The influence of Count Nesselrode is again in the ascendant. An Imperial ukase confirms the summoning to arms of all the reserves, as well as the soldiers on furlough.

The rejection by Russia of the Note of the Porte, which was approved by the Four Powers, has not yet been officially notified to the members of the Vienna Conference.

We learn from Krajova, under date January 25, that since the arrival of General Schilder a retrograde movement of Russian troops in Lesser Wallachia has been remarked. The Russians confine themselves to the defensive, probably waiting for reinforcements.

The reported crossing of the Danube by Omar Pacha is not yet confirmed.

#### AINSLIE v. PRATT—LIBEL.

In the Court of Common Pleas yesterday this case came on for hearing, before Mr. Justice Talfourd and a special jury. It was an action for an alleged libel, published in the *British Banner* of December, 7, 1853, of which the defendant is publisher, reflecting on the character of the plaintiff. Mr. Edwin James, Q.C., Mr. Hawkins, and Mr. Stammers appeared for the plaintiff; and Sir F. Thesiger, Mr. Willes, and Mr. Cook Evans for the defendant.

The plea was "not guilty."

Mr. James opened the case, and stated that Mr. Ainslie, the plaintiff, had been for seven years secretary to the London City Mission, and was also a member of the Educational Board of the Congregational Union; he was also formerly a Dissenting minister, at the Newcourt Chapel, Carey-street, and he sought to recover damages for a libel which he thought, when they had heard the case, they would be of opinion had been dictated by "envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness." The charge in the libel was that Mr. Ainslie had been guilty of collusion in the fabrication of documents, and the action was brought, not against the mere publisher of the paper, for the defendant not only published the *British Banner*, but he also farmed it, and so had an interest in the profits. The Rev. Ebenezer Davies had been for some years, under the auspices of the London Missionary Society, a missionary in Barbice, and in the year 1845 he returned home seriously damaged in health by his labours; and on Sunday, the 2nd November, in that year, he was sent to preach at Wellingborough, in Northamptonshire. On Tuesday, the 4th November, he returned to London, and then it appeared that Dr. Tidman, the foreign secretary of the Missionary Society, had listened to some charges which had been made against Mr. Davies, and these charges he was called upon to answer, and, after investigation, he was acquitted. Other charges were subsequently made as to some misconduct at Barbice, and these charges were investigated no less than five times, the result always being an acquittal. On the 27th of December, 1850, another charge was made. It was alleged that whilst Mr. Davies was absent from London, in November, 1845, Mrs. Davies, his wife, had gone to the Mission-house on the 4th of November to await his return, and that whilst there she had dropped in the waiting-room a letter which Mr. Davies had written to her from Wellingborough. This letter, it was said, had been picked up and read by two clerks, Stacey and Horley, and had been copied by one of them. This alleged letter was of the most indecent character, and of such a kind that no sated libertine, no monomaniac in letter writing would have written to his wife. That lady was a woman as pure as ever breathed, and she now occupied a position in which she had the care of six hundred children, yet it was said that she had received this letter, and not only that, but Stacey said that when Mrs. Davies called again he gave her the letter, and she then read it, and read it too, without a tremor or a blush. A committee of eleven gentlemen was appointed to investigate this charge against Mr. Davies, and seven of them were of opinion that he was guilty of writing the letter. Mr. Ainslie had been for many years a member of the Congregational Board, but he resigned the position which he had held; and, believing that Mr. Davies had been unfairly dealt with, he, on the 11th of April, 1853, published a pamphlet to vindicate his character, entitled, "Defence of the Innocent." It appeared that in the alleged letter which Mr. Davies was said to have written, there was an allusion to "a packet of letters," which it was stated he had received on the Monday morning. The pamphlet contained a statement by Mr. Thomas Oliver

Beale, of Wellingborough, dated the 10th of August, 1853, in which it was stated that Mr. Davies had been his guest from November 1st to November 4th, in 1845, and that during that time he could not have "received a packet of letters on the 3rd of November, 1845, and of course he could not have written an answer to any letter as so received, there being no delivery here on Monday at that time." The writer also said, "it was not probable that Mr. Davies could have written any letters at my house without my knowledge and recollection, as I so well remember his movements during that visit." The post-mistress of Wellingborough also declared, that "in the year 1845 there was no delivery of letters on the Monday at Wellingborough." It turned out, however, that Mr. Beale was mistaken, and that Mr. Davies had, in fact, stayed with a gentleman named Keep, at Wellingborough in November, 1845. As to the post, it appeared that although London letters were not delivered at Wellingborough on Mondays, yet other letters were. The principal article in the *British Banner* complained of was headed "Defence of the Innocent; Collusion and Conspiracy Extraordinary." And this article contained comments upon Mr. Ainslie's pamphlet, and also statements as to Mr. Davies' case. It was asserted that Mr. Davies had improperly obtained the certificates from Mr. Beale and the post-mistress, and the plaintiff's case was that reflections were made injurious to his character in connection with the certificates, and other matters. The alleged libel occupied many columns of the *British Banner*.

Mrs. Davies and also Mr. Davies, who said that he was now minister of the Caledonian-road chapel, were called, with a view of giving a detail of the matter as far as they were concerned; and it was proposed to prove also that Mr. Davies had not written, nor had Mrs. Davies received, the letter in question, but his lordship held that the plaintiff was only entitled to show the nature of the charge against Mr. Davies, but not to enter into the truth or falsehood of it. To this ruling a bill of exceptions was tendered. A copy of the alleged letter had been furnished to Mr. Davies by the Rev. Ebenezer Prout, of the London Missionary Society, and it was sought to read this copy. His lordship, however, refused to receive it, and expressed his opinion that it was not worth while struggling to get a document of the disgusting character they had heard read in the cause.

Mr. Ainslie proved that previously to the matters which had been mentioned arising he had known nothing of Mr. or Mrs. Davies. The manuscript of the libel was not in Dr. Campbell's handwriting, for that gentleman usually dictated his articles. The corrections, however, were in his handwriting. He had been friendly with Dr. Campbell, and had himself shown him the pamphlet, "Defence of the Innocent," shortly after it had been printed. The libel had been very extensively circulated among his friends; and of the pamphlet nearly 1,000 copies had been sold.

Mr. William Freeman proved that the defendant, in "a friendly conversation," had told him that he had farmed the *British Banner*.

Five other persons, members of Mr. Davies' congregation, stated that copies of the paper containing the libel had been sent to them without their having ordered or paid for them.

Sir Frederick Thesiger then addressed the jury for the defendant, and contended that the articles in question were not libellous. The fact was, that the plaintiff himself had invited criticism of his pamphlet, and it was submitted that Dr. Campbell, in what he had written, had not exceeded the bounds of fair criticism. If, however, they should be of opinion that anything libellous had been written, then it was submitted that a small amount of damages would satisfy the justice of the case.

His Lordship in summing up went minutely through the statements made in the articles complained of, and he left it to the jury to say whether they were libellous, and if so what was the amount of damages.

The jury considered the matter in private for three-quarters of an hour, and then gave a verdict for the plaintiff.—Damages, 40s.

A terrible fire took place about five o'clock yesterday morning, in Princes-street, Soho, at the back of St. Anne's church, in a house inhabited by lodgers. The flames had made considerable progress before the discovery took place, and almost before the inmates could be alarmed the fire had reached the second and third floors, at the windows of which several persons were observed imploring assistance. The fire-escape had not at this time arrived; when it came, all those previously seen at the windows had disappeared, and their terrible fate was too apparent. The fire was very shortly subdued, leaving the ground-floor untouched, and a large portion of the first and second-floor staircases standing. In the second-floor front room were found the half-charred remains of the unfortunate wife of one of the lodgers, and three children, the youngest only two years of age. In the back attic the bodies of a journeyman tailor and his wife, and of the old woman who had occupied the front attic, were found lying in a heap, as if they had fallen down and died together.

Sir W. Heathcote was yesterday elected, without opposition, member for the University of Oxford, in the room of Sir R. Inglis.

The Hon. Col. Percy E. Herbert (brother to the Earl of Powis), was yesterday elected member for Ludlow, without opposition, in the room of Mr. R. Olive, deceased.

#### CORN EXCHANGE.—MARK LANE, Wednesday, Feb. 8th.

We have but little doing in any article to-day, and prices may be considered without alteration. English—wheat, 2010; barley, 5480; oats, 2590 qrs.; flour, 3720 sds. Foreign—wheat, 3520; barley, 540; oats, 1010 qrs.—7870 brls.



ABRIDGEMENT OF THE CENSUS RETURNS OF  
RELIGIOUS WORSHIP.

THE SUPPLEMENT of the NONCONFORMIST of January 4th, 1864, containing a carefully-prepared abridgement of the Official Report and Tables on "Religious Worship," describing the Principal Denominations, and stating the provision for public worship, attendance, destitution, &c., may now be obtained, price 3d.; by post, 4d.

W. FREEMAN, Publisher, 69 Fleet Street.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A Dunlop" will see that our space this week is pre-occupied.

We beg to announce that it is our intention, during the present year, to give, once in about every Six Weeks, a LITERARY SUPPLEMENT of Eight Pages, containing Reviews of the most Valuable Publications of the day.

## The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1864.

SUMMARY.

THE brief discussion in the House of Lords on Monday night, on the all-absorbing Eastern question, appears to have excited much interest, without as well as within, the walls of Parliament. It will be observed that the Earl of Clarendon declared that he could hold out no hopes that fresh negotiations would be entered into, or peace still preserved. It appears that the last Vienna proposal, backed by the four Powers, has been definitively rejected by the Czar, whose counter-projects, made through Count Orloff, have been with equal promptitude set aside by the diplomatic Conference in that city. The Russian Ministers in Paris and in London have received their passports and departed for Brussels, and yesterday orders were to be sent for the recall of the French and English ambassadors at St. Petersburg;—so that diplomatic intercourse between Russia and the Western Powers is now at an end.

It is difficult to fathom the depths of Russian chicanery, or to explain, on any intelligible principle, the course pursued by the Czar. To the very last, he is true to his character of bully. His last propositions, if report be true, are simply an insult to the mediating Powers—in fact, an increase in the demands of Prince Menschikoff. The conditions on which Count Orloff was to express the Emperor's readiness to treat were, says the *Times*, four in number—that a Turkish Plenipotentiary should proceed to the head-quarters of the army, or to St. Petersburg, to open direct negotiations with Russia, but with liberty to refer to the Ministers of the Four Powers; that the former treaties between Russia and the Porte should be renewed; that Turkey should enter into an engagement not to give an asylum to political refugees; and that the Porte should recognize, by a declaration, the Russian protectorate of the Greek Christians, which was the origin of the quarrel. It is further stated that the Emperor demanded on the part of Austria and Prussia an unconditional armed neutrality, in the maintenance of which he would protect them; and, as a recompense for this service, Count Orloff was to promise them that, in the approaching dissolution of the Ottoman empire, their interests should not be forgotten. These propositions appear to have been received with astonishment and irritation by the German Courts, and to have disposed them more than ever, as the least of two evils, to look favourably upon a closer alliance with the Western Powers. But Count Orloff still lingers at Vienna. We may be sure that his expedients for averting the final appeal are not yet exhausted, and we should scarcely do credit to Russian diplomacy to suppose, that he has not propositions to make of a more secret and palatable nature now that the emergency has arisen. At present the position of Austria and Prussia appears to be this:—They have rejected the proposals of Russia, but they have not yet heartily committed themselves to the course pursued by the Western Powers. And it is scarcely likely that the former power will do so.

Notwithstanding the slender chances of peace, nothing like panic is observable. A fall of only one per cent. in consols is the response of the money market to the recall of the Russian Ambassador, and the ministerial explanation on Monday night. Trade continues to be flourishing, and commercial activity is as noticeable as the preparations for war. What is being done in the latter direction will be seen in our other columns. On both sides of the Channel the utmost vigour is observable. So unremitting and extensive are the measures in question, that we cannot avoid the suspicion that the allied Governments distrust more than appears the neutrality of Austria.

While the Lords have confined their scanty talk to the Eastern question, and the Commons have listened with approving cheers to announcements that it was almost unfair to Her Majesty to have omitted from the Speech,—a brisk intercourse has been kept up between the Home-office and the volunteer representatives of certain public interests. To a deputation from the Birmingham Conference, Lord Palmerston has promised a Juvenile Delinquent's Reformation measure—to a deputation on Church-rates, a bill for their removal or modification—and to a crowd of municipal magistrates, "consideration" of their objections to the centralizing of police arrangements. The Home Secretary's engagement on behalf of young criminals, had, perhaps, respect to the announcement made by Lord John Russell last night,—that the only educational proposition at present resolved upon, is one for the establishment of pauper schools.

The unopposed return of Sir William Heathcote for the University of Oxford, and of the Hon. Percy Egerton Herbert—who hopes that the new Reform Bill will respect the right of antique constituencies and younger brothers—for Ludlow, are the only remaining out-of-door political incidents of the week.

The Church, as usual, displays a mimic activity at the revival of Parliament from its winter torpor. Convocation met for business on Wednesday last, and actually ventured on the functions of a constituent assembly; appointing a committee to devise means for restoring vitality to a hopelessly defunct organism. Painful to behold, as the galvanic contortions of a corpse, are these writhings of the hopelessly enslaved. The more painful are they in proportion to the necessity for the power which they simulate. With another eminent Church dignitary threatened with citation before a secular authority (for that, as the ultimate, is the real appeal) for the holding of heretical doctrine, and the Church reformers of Carlisle unable to urge an abatement of capital abuses without implied and expressed insult to nonconforming fellow-citizens, certainly some interposition is urgently required for the deliverance of Christianity in these realms from a bondage that at once galls, corrupts, and degrades.

NOTES FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

LIKE most men returning to business after a lengthened holiday, Parliament commences its new term of labour easily and without excitement. Of course, every measure must pass through its initial stage—and almost, of course, that stage is not the most fitting one for discussion. For a brief period, therefore, matters will go on smoothly.—Government will be allowed to explain and introduce their bills—and impatient senators will be nursing their eloquence for a future occasion. The notice paper is not clogged with an accumulation of "orders." Individual members have scarcely had time to cut out their intended work—and hence, every night since the opening of the Session, the House has risen at an early hour. Perhaps this pleasant passage of our Parliamentary experience is not exclusively due to the forementioned causes. In part it is to be ascribed to the absorbing interest felt in the Eastern question, and the near prospect of war—and in part it results from the absence of a united and thoroughly organised opposition. Whatever may be the cause, the fact remains that hitherto we have had little or no discussion.

Let it not be imagined, however, that the business of the session is making no progress. On the contrary, it is proceeding as creditably as could be wished. Thus the Chancellor of the Exchequer has brought in a bill necessary to enable him to simplify the present system of public accounts, and to bring under the supervision and the control of Parliament the expenses incurred in the collection of the revenue. The President of the Board of Trade also has introduced two measures of high importance—the first of which consolidates and amends the laws affecting merchant shipping, and the second destroys "the last rag of Protection," by opening our coasting trade to the competition of foreigners. The Army, Navy, and Ordnance estimates have been laid upon the table; and Lord John Russell has obtained leave to bring in a bill for substituting a single oath for those now taken by members upon their entrance to the House. So that, although there has been no perceptible bustle, and very little oratory, several important measures have been launched, and, within another week, others still more important will be added. As yet, therefore, the country has no cause to regret the reputed, and, we may say, evident disorganization of her Majesty's Opposition.

We do not think it necessary to describe the business of the House this week in the order in which it was transacted. We shall select for notice only the more salient points, premising that our object now, as of yore, is not to pass the business of the House through the crucible of philosophical criticism, but rather to give such colouring as personal and scenic description can give to the outlines

which are supplied by ordinary Parliamentary reporting.

Any one who has read Mr. Cardwell's speech on the introduction of the two admirable measures above mentioned, will accord to it the praise of precision, clearness, skilful arrangement, and, towards its close, something approximating to eloquence. Any one who has not listened to the right hon. gentleman would be apt to conclude, from reading his reported speeches, that he must be, if not a very exciting, yet a very pleasant orator. Well, he is not so bad as many whose Parliamentary reputation is nevertheless considerable, but he certainly does not answer, in any one respect, to the anticipations one is apt to form regarding him. He is tall and thin—he is pale, and has red hair. His manner is as stiff as if he were lecturing a class, and as solemn and monotonous as if he were occupying a pulpit. There is an indescribable dryness in his tones, bordering upon the husky, and although he is clearly at home in his subject, he never appears to be interested in it. He commands, therefore, but a limited share of attention. The economists listen to him, and occasionally cheer him. But he rivets none but them. There is nothing in his air calculated to infuse liveliness into his subject. If he were a machine without sentiment, and without emotions, he would perform his part quite as efficiently as now. As President of the Board of Trade, he is eminently in his proper place. But although he cannot keep the House within sound of his voice, he earns, and justly earns, high commendations. He received laudatory encouragement, and promises of support, from all parts of the House the other night, not so much on account of his speech, but on account of the measures it was intended to introduce.

Lord John Russell needs no description as a speaker; but on Monday evening he struck us as more hesitating and heavy in his manner than usual. His speech, however, was fuller of liberal sentiment, boldly enounced, than is common with him on topics bordering on the religious. The oath he proposes as a substitute for those now taken at the table of the House, steers clear of all ecclesiastical questions—it binds to allegiance to the throne—it promises defence—it recognises civil supremacy—and it engages for the due order of succession—and that is all. If passed in the proposed form, it will open the door of Parliament to the Jew, release the Roman Catholic from his promise not to injure the Established Church, and leave High Churchmen in undisturbed maintenance of their theoretic views touching the Queen's religious supremacy. We suppose this last is the sugar which is mixed with the bitter portions of the bill, to induce an influential portion of the episcopal bench to swallow it. Sir F. Theisger sounded the note of opposition—and his two points will be Protestantism and Christianity. No doubt the measure will be keenly contested in the House of Commons; but we have hope that the breadth of liberality which distinguishes its provisions will save the discussion from the bigoted and pharisaic character which has generally been too prominent in debates on a Jew bill.

Last night the House became lively. An Irish topic was afoot—and eke a personal one. At a banquet at Tuam, Dr. Gray, we believe, had stated a fact which, if true, exhibits some Irish M.P. as trafficking his Parliamentary influence for money; and a Mr. Kelly made a similar charge against another M.P. at some other gathering. The local papers reported these speeches, and the *Times* copied and commented upon them. Accordingly, Mr. J. Butt made a complaint of breach of privilege, moved that the *Times* article be read by the Clerk of the House, and that a select committee be appointed to inquire into the matter complained of. The article was accordingly read—we only hope that no article of the *Nonconformist* may ever have to submit to such a murderous ordeal. Whether from defective sight, or from slow apprehension, we know not, but Sir D. Le Marchant invariably reads in a style which would be certain of bringing down upon any charity school-boy a smart infliction of the rod. That ceremony over, Mr. Butt, in an able, temperate, but warm-hearted speech, brought forward his motion for inquiry, which was seconded, after a few appropriate observations, by Mr. John O'Connell. Lord John Russell acquiesced in the motion. Mr. J. Ball, as an Irish member, made a pertinent statement thereupon, and the discussion appeared to be on the point of terminating for the present. But just then Mr. Lucas rose, and gave the whole subject a much wider application. He read another and an earlier article from the *Times*, and alleged that the Whig Government had for many years subsisted by a systematic corruption of Irish members. He spoke with great power, and was heard with breathless attention. Some of his hits were extremely clever, and, on the whole, he made considerable impression on the House. Mr. T. Duncombe closed the debate by a bold statement of the avowed corrupting practices of Mr. Hudson, and by expressing his hope that the House would purge itself of this disgrace. The motion was agreed to, and the House adjourned.



REPRESENTATIVE REFORM IN 1832  
AND 1854.

"It is a circumstance, Sir, of happy augury for the motion before the House, that almost all those who have opposed it have declared themselves hostile on principle to Parliamentary Reform."

Such is the first sentence of the first of a series of "Speeches on Parliamentary Reform in 1831 and 1832, by the Right Hon. T. B. Macaulay, M.P.,"\* One does not see how, in any large sense, it would be of advantage to the measure which the speaker had risen to support, that it was "opposed on principle," and with a united object. For it was not only the admission, but even the boast, of the framers of the first Reform Bill—as represented by the orator now under quotation—that it was simply a "practical" measure, a topical attempt at "the healing of great distempers,"—that it rested on "no general theory of government,"—that it aspired to no higher praise than that of a "plain, rational, and consistent" expedient—that it sought no larger object than to "admit the middle-class to a large and direct share in the representation without any violent shock to the institutions of our country." It was recommended only by arguments drawn from the most material considerations,—however brilliant their setting of historical allusion and rhetorical appeal,—by pictures of Marylebone, "a city superior in size and in population to the capitals of many mighty kingdoms; and probably superior in opulence, in intelligence, and general respectability, to any city in the world"—yet unrepresented; by artistic contrasts of the "old wall, the last relique of a departed city," retaining the privileges of that city, "while great towns, celebrated all over the world for wealth and intelligence, had no more share in the government than when they were still hamlets;" by menaces that grew more explicit and stimulating as the measure they were designed to secure grew less and less worthy of the popular enthusiasm necessary to its security,—and from which even the ingredients of hopefulness and sympathy were abstracted by declarations of finality as decisive as abuse of more radical reformers was abundant. Surely, if the "principle" by which the opponents of the measure were united had been anything better than the blindest resistance to change, it could have been no "happy augury" to the promoters of a change as niggard and obstructive as could possibly consist with temporary success.

Auspicious or otherwise, however, this "circumstance" of an opposition united on principle, will certainly be awaiting in the struggle to be formally opened on Monday next. It has long been perceived, and is now pretty clearly announced, that to a further amendment of the representation there will be now avowed opposition but on considerations of time and detail. The inadequacy of the present system to its professions and designs, we take to be as little denied as its impurity, even by the loudest objectors to "democratic encroachment." The Earl of Derby has scarcely been louder or later in urging those objections than members of the present Cabinet; and Mr. Disraeli is committed, by express declaration, to the "enfranchisement of the artisan class." The main difference between the impending struggle and that of 1831-2 will be—that, whereas, the opposition then reserved the damaging exertion of their strength till the distribution of the new franchises had to be decided, they will now fight that battle at the outset. We should have no fear of their success, but for the example of what they then achieved, and the suspicion that at least half their demand will be conceded before they make it. The men who in '32 assented to the Chandos clause and refused the ballot, are the men who in '54 disclaim an intention to disturb the "balance of interests," and insist on votes being given under the eye of landlords. And suspicion is further excited by the recollection that these men, up to a very late hour—up to the extremity of political distress, indeed—vaunted the perfection of their first Reform Bill, notwithstanding the flagrant falsification of their promises on its behalf.

"I cannot but anticipate"—said the most eloquent of the Parliamentary Reformers of 1831, in perorating the second of his orations—"I cannot but anticipate a long series of happy years; of years during which a parental government will be firmly supported by a grateful nation; of years during which war, if war should be inevitable, will find us an united people; of years pre-eminently distinguished by the progress of arts, by the improvement of laws, by the augmentation of the public resources, by the diminution of the public burdens, by all those victories of peace in which, far more than in any military successes, consists the true felicity of states, and the true glory of statesmen." On another occasion, he more explicitly attributes the results thus glowingly depicted to the object of his fervent advocacy: "If it (the Bill) had been passed fifteen years ago, it would have saved us from our present embarrassments. If we pass it

now, it will gradually extricate us from them. It will secure to us a House of Commons which, by preserving peace, by destroying monopolies, by taking away unnecessary public burthens, will in the progress of time greatly improve our condition." Elsewhere, the perennial purity of constituencies, the insignificant cost of elections, the quick and certain transference of the public will into parliamentary enactments, are confidently predicted as the fruits of the law under which we have witnessed, it is true, great social and political advances, but advances which have had to be made in spite of the legislature thus reconstituted,—of a legislature which refused to abate the most flagrant Church abuses, which maintained monopolies till they had well nigh bred rebellion, which sacrificed to faction the only statesman of his day who was a comprehensive fiscal reformer, which contemptuously rejected the prayers of the million for concessions of political power, which increased by more than half our annual war charges, which encouraged wars of aggression in distant regions, while abandoning the cause of European liberty in an hypocritical regard for peace, and which has exhibited at every successive election more and more offensive outrages on public virtue and decency;—a legislature whose operations bring out the more clearly the longer they are contemplated, the radical iniquity of its structure, permitting incidental advantage to arise only from the rivalry of internal parties, and the pressure of external force.

At the present moment, we may expect more from the former than from the latter of these irregular, illegitimate influences. There is certainly nothing now to compare with the universal excitement and wide-spread organization of '31-2, in favour of representative reform. But we have instead thereof, the keen competition of able, ambitious men, for the possession of power at a juncture of great opportunity for achievement and renown,—and an unanimous conviction that something must ere long be done, and done effectually. Statesmen do not now rely on family connexions and a prescriptive tenure of place as a breakwater against the slow, sure tide of political change; and no one, in any single estate of the realm, believes in even the practical perfection of things as they are. Unfortunately, there is also an absence of that strong definite faith, which, laying hold of a concrete proposition, and uttering itself in a motto and war-cry, is our only security either from delusion or defeat. It is not enough that we desire,—we must also describe and demand. And if Lord John Russell do not give the required formula, it must be instantly framed and devotedly subscribed.

## THE DIPLOMATISTS IN PRINT.

If we were to complain that, as gunpowder had revolutionized the art of war, the press had not similarly affected the craft diplomatic, we might be guilty of something like an anachronism,—seeing that the system of standing embassies can hardly be considered of older date than the Reformation;—but we should have indicated a remarkable want of adaptation in an important branch of modern government to modern social conditions. The use of gunpowder has wonderfully simplified and shortened warlike operations, and the use of steam will further carry out the process. But the universal employment of printing,—with the added facilities of the electric telegraph,—has failed to abbreviate or straighten the functions of the gentlemen "sent abroad to lie for their country's good." Of the two folio volumes of nearly four hundred pages, "Correspondence respecting the Rights and Privileges of the Latin and Greek Churches in Turkey"—(diplomats cannot tell the plain truth, even on title pages)—of all the thousand or so despatches between these blue covers—many of them exact repetitions,—there is not one, we suppose (except a very brief one marked "telegraphic"), but was written and copied just as if Dr. Faustus had never shown us the value of metal types over goose-quills.—Not that we have so much an eye to the saving of clerk's wages as to the safe provision of publicity, in recommending the newspaper as "an advantageous medium" of diplomatic communication. Nearly twelve months have some of these precious "notes" been kept back from the printer and his public—to take both, at last, "in a rush."

We have given so full an abstract in other columns of these most welcome, though most cumbrous, documents, that we may here confine ourselves to noting their salient features.

First among these, is the whimsical but mischievous relation of states exhibited at starting. The Sublime Porte reigns over a very incongruous population, as well as over the fairest portion of two continents. The Mahomedan sovereign has Christian subjects, and these Christians are members of the rival churches of the East and West. These anomalies are all concentrated on a spot the most sacred on earth to perhaps a third part of the human race. The very sepulchre of the Prince of Peace, Greeks and Latins make the focus of their animosities—and their unbelieving master keeps them from each other's throats by cuffs and

sops. And these are administered under external influence rather than at private discretion. The Greeks have a friend in Russia, and the Latins in France. A request preferred by the latter, with the air of a demand, is conceded. It seemed too insignificant either to be asked or refused—for it did but concern the custody of a church-gate and of a silver star. Nevertheless, the concession is resented by Russia as a wrong. It is even made the pretext for demands of such magnitude—demands of internal protectorate over all Turkey's Greek subjects—and the demand is presented with such insulting menaces, that the Sultan appeals to the public opinion of Europe, as represented by Ambassadors, whether *this* is not too bad? The new friend thus called in, answers that it is too bad—France handsomely recalls the request which had led to all the pother—and the first act closes with Russia in general odium. All which indicates, we think, a generally false and vicious state of international relations.

The next thing brought out is, the mingled ruffianism and mendacity of Russia. When an explanation is requested at St. Petersburg, the reply is, "Oh, our demands are confined, like those of France, to the question of the Holy Places,—and that is, we may say, settled." Nevertheless, at Constantinople Prince Menschikoff plays the bully with scarcely the thinnest disguise. The Government of the Sultan is insulted in its own capital, and his frontier threatened by a large force. The decision of his Council is supported by that of all the European representatives—even Austria, however reluctantly, assenting. By the rupture of diplomatic intercourse with Turkey, Russia offers to all the other powers, in no very mitigated degree, the indignity put upon it. She aggravates this general offence, as well as the private wrong, by the invasion of the Principalities. The Minister who had disclaimed whatever was offensive in the Menschikoff mission, now boldly justifies this flagrant aggression, and almost contemptuously denies the right of other powers to interfere between his master and the intended victim. Of the criminality of conduct such as this, we suppose there can be no question on any theory of national relations.

Now comes into play a rude substitute for that international tribunal which the men who most persistently revile it are ever and anon compelled to anticipate. A conference of diplomatists is opened at Vienna, and thence is despatched—after deliberation not too short, yet not enough—that ill-framed "note," which probably none more anxiously disown than its original authors. It is rejected by the Czar, it would seem, at the first sight of the Turkish corrections which it bore. Again the European powers are insulted by a denial of their right to interfere; and still are made those pacific profession, under cover of which the Sinope massacre is perpetrated. Now, England and France regret that they had well-nigh committed the Sultan by words to concessions which they, equally with himself, intended to refuse, and almost reproach themselves with the good faith and forbearance that had been so signally abused. And then is ushered in that stage of the dismal business on which we are now embarked—a second Vienna note, opening up to the Czar a way of escape to which he is not entitled, and perhaps cutting off from Turkey advantages which, if she could not now obtain for herself, Europe has certainly a right to extort for both; the cancelling of treaties ever fruitful in the pretence and potent in the means of aggression, and the final deliverance of Circassia from the fate she has so gallantly resisted.

We end, for the present, as we began, by insisting that to the printer should be more freely entrusted the conduct of diplomacy. Had we had no representatives abroad but for the general protection of trade and travellers—in other words, consular without diplomatic establishments—we need not have known less than we now know, nor been enabled to exert a feebleness influence than we have exerted on this question. If we had only the newspaper for our informant, we should have been kept as well informed of the mission to Constantinople and the army on the Pruth, as was Lord Clarendon by the despatches on which he dared not act. And if that noble lord had been at liberty to print, immediately on receiving or despatching, communications to or from foreign courts, he would have escaped undeserved odium, confidence would have prevailed in many minds where suspicion has been felt, and no conceivable injury could have accrued to the interests which English knowledge and English spirit would have united to guard.

## THE TYRANNY OF SNOBBISM.

JENKINS, so long lost sight of in the satirical pages of *Punch*, has reappeared on the public stage. Disdaining the kitchens of noble and fashionable mansions, he suddenly bursts upon us at the opening of the national council—in the gilded chamber of the House of Peers—in the very presence of royalty. When her Majesty opened Parliament last week, the absence of two Ambassadors

\* Published by Messrs. Longman and Co., as No. 52 of the "Travellers' Library."



from the diplomatic box was generally noticed. The Russian envoy was not there—an indication of the threatening relations of the two countries. But what had become of the representative of the great "empire republic"? Are our relations with the United States unsettled? Is Mr. Buchanan also about to demand his passports? Nothing of the kind. But the United States Envoy, in accordance with the instructions of his Government, declined to appear at the state ceremony in the prescribed Court dress, and he was therefore not admitted at all. This is the literal fact. A country of nearly thirty millions of people, bound to us by the strongest ties of kindred, language, and self-interest, and to whom we may have to look for aid in chastising Imperial aggression, is allowed to be insulted by a Master of the Ceremonies. The New World must accept the bespangled coat, knee-breeches, and dangling sword of our mediæval court livery, or be altogether ignored by English gentility. Gulliver's Travels, or the Court of Japan, afford the fittest parallel to this humiliating exhibition. Even the Czar has a higher notion of propriety than the English Court, for, as was noticed in our last number, he could dispense with a Court dress when an American visitor objected to wear it. Other absolutist Courts, also, so far relax their etiquette as to allow the same latitude. For the most constitutional nation of Europe is reserved the disgrace of sticking for a form which "Divine-right" sovereigns are willing to dispense with. Every manly heart will rejoice at the dignified rebuke offered by the American Ambassador to the intolerance of English flunkeyism.

The uncalled-for insult is the more flagrant from the notorious fact, that our Queen has a wholesome repugnance to the rigid forms and wearisome ceremonials with which royalty is environed. In spite of the exactions of traditional practice enforced by the pedantry of the governing classes, she will not consent to be a mere puppet. Her aim is to be a real Queen—living, not for the benefit of a numerous court of aristocratic dependents, but for the sake of her husband and family, and in the hearts and affections of her people. We can easily imagine the blush of indignation suffusing her face on learning how the representative of the United States had been treated by her officials.

We wish, for the sake of the country, this irritating enforcement of a meaningless custom were an isolated case. Unfortunately, it is characteristic of our Court and Government. Unless a member of Parliament wears a coat of a particular cut, he must forego the opportunity of paying his respect to Mr. Speaker at his periodical levees. A dead and rigid formalism runs through all departments—the civil service, army, and navy. Officialism goes about its duty like a horse in a mill, or an automaton in a show, until the system becomes stereotyped. This pedantic enforcement of routine is, under present circumstances, alarming as well as contemptible. May not this same narrow-minded etiquette, which will flout our best ally for the sake of a Court costume, sacrifice national to official interests, and peril the fortunes of a campaign, or even the objects of a war?

Nicholas, now Emperor of Russia, when Mr. Budle got him "rigged out" in appropriate costume for a descent of the Wallend shaft, no sooner got to the pit mouth than he drew back, and declined the enterprise, exclaiming—"It is the mouth of hell! none but a madman would venture into it!" If he be wise, he will see the same abyss in a European war, and attest his sanity by drawing back.—*Gateshead Observer.*

The two flanking towers of the Crystal Palace are to be taken down and rebuilt, it being discovered that they have not the strength requisite for the discharge of the several functions for which they are designed.

A correspondent of the *Athenæum* says that the whirlwind which raged near Macclesfield a few days since, "lifted the cows from their feet, and bore them in the air to a considerable distance, and then safely let them down again, at the same time breaking large trees in the midst like rotten sticks!"

Macaulay's well-known and beautiful conception of the New Zealander in some future age sitting on the ruins of Westminster bridge, and looking where London stood, may, says *Notes and Queries* have been first suggested by a thought in one of Walpole's lively letters to Sir H. Mann: "At last some curious native of Lima will visit London, and give a sketch of the ruins of Westminster and St. Paul's."

A friar came to a French town in order to preach a sermon upon a certain occasion. His sermon went off tolerably well, and the friar was hospitably received and sumptuously regaled. The next day, to his great dismay, he was told it was a holiday in honour of the patron saint of the town, and that all the congregation were assembling in the church, in order to listen to the new sermon he was expected to deliver. The poor friar had only brought one sermon with him, and that was already delivered. What was he to do? He got into the pulpit, and mark what the friar said:—"My brethren," said he, looking very solemnly round the church, "certain malignant persons have said there was heresy in the sermon I delivered to you yesterday; and, in order to show how false is this accusation, I propose to deliver it to you all over again." (Laughter.)

#### THE BLUE BOOKS ON RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

The correspondence on the Eastern question has at length been laid before Parliament, and comprises two formidable folio volumes—one extending to 400; the other to 378 pages. Oddly enough, the title of the volumes runs:—"Correspondence respecting the Rights and Privileges of the Latin and Greek Churches in Turkey," although the greater part of the correspondence refers to events that have occurred since that particular point was virtually settled.

#### THE ORIGINAL DISPUTE.

All the world knows, that the first disturbance of the *status quo* in the East originated in a dispute between the Greek and Latin churches respecting certain prerogatives in the Holy Places at the beginning of last year. The Latins, represented by the French Ambassador at the Porte, had obtained from the Sultan certain concessions, conceived by the Greeks, who were represented by Russia, to derogate not only from their prescriptive rights, but from privileges recently granted by special firman. It seems that the French Ambassador, M. de Lavalette, had acted with great indiscretion, and in a coercive spirit, for he threatened to bring up a French fleet into the Dardanelles if his demands were not complied with. The Russian Ambassador (M. de Tittoff) took umbrage at the concessions made to France, and threatened to quit Constantinople. Thus the relations between the contending Courts of St. Petersburg and Paris assumed a menacing appearance. At this period the policy of the British Government was simply one of impartial, though vigilant, observation. At this stage of the dispute, while the French fleet was hovering about the Mediterranean, and the Russian battalions were mustering thickly on the confines of the Turkish Principalities, a special ambassador was despatched from St. Petersburg to Constantinople, in the person of Prince Menschikoff. His mission was conducted with circumstances of arrogance and even menace; its object was left indefinite, its purposes seemed obscure, and misgivings were created in all quarters at once. Besides the affair of the Holy Places, "reparation" was mentioned as due to the Russian Government for the breach of faith committed towards the Greeks; and "security" was talked of for the future. However, in due course, Prince Menschikoff arrived at the Turkish capital, and on the 2nd of March last paid his official visit to the Grand Vizier, but omitted, in a most pointed manner, to offer the same compliment to Püad Effendi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Nothing as yet had transpired of his ultimate designs, but the misgivings of the Sultan seem to have been instinctive, and as early as the 6th of March Colonel Rose was informed that:—

"His Highness entertained strong apprehensions that the mission of Prince Menschikoff, far from being of a conciliatory character, as pretended, was, on the contrary, intended to involve the Porte in serious difficulties, and that the Emperor's object appeared to be to trample under foot the rights of the Porte and the dignity and independence of the sovereign."

It was at this period, and under these circumstances, that Colonel Rose sent those requisitions to Admiral Dundas to bring up his fleet, which, with the full approval of our Government, the Admiral declined to obey. In the policy thus pursued, Lord Stratford also concurred. Count Nesselrode himself had early remarked to our Minister at St. Petersburg, that there was "necessarily some vagueness" in Prince Menschikoff's orders, and this vagueness became more and more remarkable as his mission took effect. At the end of March the Grand Vizier told Colonel Ross,—

"His policy is most confused. At one time he would attract us to Russia by mildness, spreading abroad the report that the intentions of his Government are pacific. At another he seeks to gain us over by pointing out the disadvantages and inutility of our reliance upon England and France, and how wrong we are in following the advice of those two Powers, to whom we ought not to be attached, especially if we consider that the nature of their constitution differs from that of ours, which, on the contrary, resembles that of Russia and Austria."

Meanwhile, Lord Stratford had returned to his post, M. de Lavalette had been recalled, and the tone of the French Government had become exceedingly moderate.

#### THE MENSCHIKOFF NOTE.

At the beginning of April, the plot began to thicken—the "ulterior" proposals of Prince Menschikoff were beginning to be perceptible. Lord Stratford informs our Government that he found the Turkish Ministry in a combination of "alarm, seeking for advice, and reluctant to tell the whole case frankly;" but it gradually appeared that the Prince had made a demand for a secret treaty, which, over and above the particular question of the Holy Places, was to define certain general relations between Russia and the Porte; and that he had imperatively desired of the Turkish Ministers that none of these proposals might be permitted to transpire.

The advice which, "at their repeated solicitation," our Ambassador gave the Turkish Ministers was, to keep the question of the Holy Places separate from the ulterior proposals, to avoid entering upon the latter till the former had been adjusted, and then to consider them on their proper merits. He further "expressed his opinion, that it would not be reasonable or prudent for them to disoblige the Emperor of Russia in matters which might be conceded without any serious objection." The general negotiation was still directed to the original question of the Holy Places, and on the 22nd of April the British Ambassador was enabled to report this dispute as *virtually adjusted*—a fact which Count Nesselrode himself, in a conversation with our Minister at St. Petersburg, presently acknowledged. Still there was, "in more respects than one, a mystery hanging over the intentions of Russia," and well there might be; for, a few days afterwards, when the question of the Holy Places had been conclusively settled, Prince Menschikoff presented to the Turkish Government that celebrated Note which created the subsequent embroilments, and which may end in European war. That document has already appeared in our columns. It is necessary only here to state, that its provisions generally stipulated for a general protection by the Sultan of all "the orthodox Eastern religion, its clergy and possessions," with all "the privileges and immunities assured to them *ab antiquo*," and an equal "participation in the advantages accorded to other Christian sects," such arrangements to be the subject of a formal treaty between the two Governments. This requisition was couched in peremptory language, and an answer demanded within the space of five days. The objects of the Czar's interference were no longer the Greek priests at Jerusalem, but the Greek Christian subjects of the Porte, numbering some 10,000,000 or 12,000,000. The demand naturally created great consternation and indignation. Three days after the demand had been made, Lord Stratford says, "Late at night I saw the Grand Vizier, Rifaat Pasha, and the Seraskier. We went at once into the subject, and before I declared any opinion of my own, I found them unanimous in regarding the convention as inadmissible." On the 19th of May, Lord Stratford reports that "the Ottoman Council, composed of unusual numbers, had decided on maintaining its previous resolution by a majority of 42 out of 45." In fact, the support of the European representatives was long withheld, and very cautiously given.

The opinions of the Governments of Europe upon the Menschikoff note were pretty unanimous. "If carried into effect," says Lord Clarendon, "14,000,000 of Greeks would henceforward regard the Emperor as their supreme protector, and their allegiance to the Sultan would be little more than nominal, while his own independence would dwindle into vassalage." On the 23rd of May M. Drouyn de Lhuys admitted, on the part of France, "the validity and force of the objections taken by the Ottoman Ministers." On the 30th of May Lord Blomfield, our Minister at Berlin, reports Baron Manteuffel as acknowledging that "the opinions of Lord Clarendon's despatch" (that above quoted) "quite coincided with those of the Prussian Government." The Austrian Government was more hesitating in its expressions, but Count Buol confessed to Lord Westmoreland that the proceedings of Prince Menschikoff were "dangerous," and that they were "little to be expected from the assurances previously given." Finally, Lord Stratford announces from Constantinople, that all the European representatives there are of his own opinion in regard to the transaction. The Menschikoff demands were universally felt to be incompatible with the preservation of Turkish independence, and were rejected accordingly (though offered under two disguises) by the deliberate resolution of the Porte itself. It is furthermore perfectly incontestable, that the Sultan had a right to reject such proposals, without exposing himself to the alternative of war. Nevertheless, when the refusal had been given, and Prince Menschikoff had left Constantinople in consequence, the Czar declared his intention of invading the Danubian Principalities, dependencies of Turkey, with a military force, and of occupying those provinces as a material guarantee for the concessions he required. This measure was announced and defended in a despatch of Count Nesselrode's, dated June 1.

None of the European Powers had as yet placed themselves in overt antagonism to Russia. On the contrary, when the Ottoman Minister had made formal application for the advice of the European representatives, they made answer that the Minister himself was the fittest judge, and that they "did not feel themselves authorised, under existing circumstances, to pronounce an opinion." Nevertheless, as it was plain that the independence of the Ottoman empire was now at stake, and as this, though not absolutely guaranteed by the treaty of 1841, was proclaimed thereby as a principle of European policy, the parties to that treaty were entitled and required to interfere. At first the French representative, though admitting the rights of the Porte, had declined the responsibility of advising it accordingly; but as early as the 24th of May we find France "ready to fulfil every obligation imposed upon her by treaty, and desirous to co-operate with England in upholding the Turkish empire." As the



British Government had arrived at the same resolution, the concert between the two Western Powers was thus virtually established. To give effect to their views, and in anticipation of all contingencies, the combined fleets of France and England presently anchored in Besika Bay.

The Governments of France and England decided on adopting for the time a policy of forbearance. The peculiar circumstances of the case left it optional with the Sultan either to consider the invasion of the Principalities a *casus belli* or not; and the advice of his protectors was given in favour of the latter course. The Czar was therefore left to occupy these territories without resistance; as this policy provoked some animadversion at home, it is worth while to observe, that this course, though decided upon by the Western Governments, had been independently suggested by Lord Stratford himself, and while the Turks were unobtrusively making defensive preparations, and providing for the security and good-will of the Christian population by special edicts, the chances of negotiation were to be earnestly tried.

#### THE VIENNA CONFERENCE AND NOTE.

At first almost every Court and every Ambassador had projects of their own founded on the hopes of reconciling the *ultimatum* delivered by Prince Menschikoff and the offers made by Reschid Pasha, but they subsided into a single and more formal proposition. On the 25th of July Lord Westmoreland (our Ambassador at Vienna) informed Lord Clarendon that Count Buol, the Austrian Minister, had called upon the representatives of the great Powers at Vienna "to consult together with the view of arriving at the adoption of some proposal which could be submitted to the Porte with the sanction of all our Governments." This suggestion produced a recognized "Conference of Vienna," and here the work of negotiation was conducted while the Russians occupied the Turkish dependencies without let or hindrance. Lord Stratford, indeed, in a remarkable despatch of July 4th, had already spoken of stronger measures as among probable contingencies; but Lord Clarendon, in a reply of July 28th, communicated the anxiety of the British Government for peace, "not because we have any doubt that the policy of Russia has been unjust and ungenerous, and is indefensible—not alone because we think that war is a calamity, but because we believe that war would be an additional danger to Turkey." The same Minister, however, in writing a few days before to Lord Westmoreland, impressed upon the Austrian Government that this forbearance had its limits, and that "it would be impossible for the Porte much longer to remain at peace while a portion of its territory was in the occupation of a Russian army."

We come now to the period of the celebrated "Vienna Note," originally of French extraction, but eventually agreed upon by the representatives of the Four Powers, in the Austrian capital. It was transmitted to St. Petersburg and Constantinople. The Czar at once accepted it; the Turkish Government refused it, except with some modifications of its own. Diplomats were astonished and displeased at the contumacy of the Ottoman Government. Even Lord Stratford urged its acceptance in the first instance, though, after having had an interview with Reschid Pasha, we find him (August 20) acknowledging his conviction that the objectionable passages of the Vienna Note could "hardly stand as they were, without exposing the Porte to inferences not borne out by facts, and eventually to pretensions that it would be equally inconvenient, if not dangerous, to admit or to resist." Lord Stratford, therefore, though for sometime doubtful and at first adverse, ultimately came to coincide with the Porte in its views of the proposition. The views of the English Ministry are elaborately developed in a despatch from Lord Clarendon of September 10, in which, although the reasonableness of the Turkish modifications, in themselves, is not impeached, it is argued that they do not afford any such additional securities as to counterbalance the risks incurred by delay. But the views of both the French and English Governments were soon changed as events developed themselves. Russia rejected the Note with the Turkish modifications, and in a despatch from Count Nesselrode (already published) justified the act. This document made it clearly appear that the apprehensions of the Porte were well founded, and that the sense which the Turks had detected in the Vienna Note as injurious to their own independence was not only actually contained in that note, but had been relied upon by the Emperor of Russia in giving his adhesion to it. The first to discern this fact was the British Minister. On the 20th of September, Lord Clarendon wrote to Lord Westmoreland, "The reasons given by Count Nesselrode in his analysis of the Turkish modifications induce Her Majesty's Government to think that the apprehensions entertained by the Porte, so far from being groundless, are to a great extent justified." In a subsequent despatch he says, "Her Majesty's Government would consider it nothing short of dishonesty to persuade the Turkish Government to sign the Note, now that they were made aware that their interpretation of it was not that of the Emperor of Russia." The French Minister, M. Drouyn de Lhuys, concurred in this view, and on the 26th of September Lord Cowley writes from Paris that he had duly read a copy of the despatch above quoted to the French Minister, and that "M. Drouyn de Lhuys replied, without hesitation, that he subscribed entirely to your Lordship's reasoning." Again were the British and French Governments in complete accord upon the Turkish question as thus constituted anew.

But other scenes were now at hand. The efforts of Europe had hitherto been successfully exerted in preventing an actual outbreak of hostilities, and in disguising with the semblance of peace what in reality was little less than war. This position, however, could no longer be maintained. The ardour excited among the Turks by

the provocations of Russia and the attitude of their Government partook unavoidably of fanaticism, and perhaps the support of two powerful nations (however cautiously promised) encouraged the Ottoman Cabinet in its preparations for conflict. The first development of these feelings appears on the 11th of September, when a telegraphic despatch arrived from Constantinople, announcing such a fermentation as to threaten, not only the Christian population of the capital, but even the throne of the Sultan himself. On the 26th, the Grand Council of the Turks solemnly pronounced itself for open war, leaving the declaration of the fact to the discretion of the Sultan. The Sultan adopted the decision, and on the 4th of October, Lord Stratford forwarded the manifesto of the Ottoman Government to such effect. In this document, the Porte formally declared war against Russia, and hostilities were to be commenced for the expulsion of the Russians from the Principalities if Prince Gortschakoff did not, upon summons given, evacuate these provinces within fifteen days. This proceeding changed the whole position of the protecting Powers. By the treaty of 1841 the Dardanelles were closed to foreign flags, except on requisition of the Sultan in time of war, and, as the Western Powers were acting in defence of treaties, they could not so far belie their own principles as to set treaties at naught. Although, therefore, the case really contemplated by the treaty had been constituted by the Russian invasion of the Principalities, the combined squadrons had hitherto remained outside the Straits. But when war had been openly declared the Straits were no longer closed; a formal requisition for the presence of the fleets was made on the 8th of October, and on the 20th Admiral Dundas was required by Lord Stratford to concert measures with the Commander of the French squadron, and to enter the Dardanelles.

#### THE LAST PROPOSALS OF PEACE.

But we hasten to notice more particularly the later despatches, as from them we are able to gather more definite information as to the real position of affairs at the present time. The origin of the last proposal for restoring peace, recommended unanimously by the Four Powers, and, on their advice, adopted by Turkey, is as follows:—

"The Conference of Vienna had addressed a note to the Turkish Government, with an inquiry as to the terms on which a negotiation for peace could be based. Before the arrival, however, of this communication, Lord de Redcliffe, acting in the spirit of his instructions, had already persuaded Reschid Pasha, in opposition to that Minister's original opinion, to submit a new project of pacification to his colleagues and to the Grand Council. The draft of the new memorandum was framed with the cordial assistance and full concurrence of General Baraguay d'Hilliers and Baron Widenbruck, and some objections, which were raised by the Austrian Intermuncio, were removed by the modification of certain phrases in the document. With considerable difficulty, the Turkish Ministry, the Grand Council, and the Sultan himself, were induced to concur in the terms proposed; and the representatives of the Great Powers, on the arrival of the Vienna Note, determined, in the exercise of a wise discretion, to withhold a new scheme which might wholly unsettle the arrangement already concluded. The Conference at Vienna at first insisted on the adoption of their own project, but the peremptory orders of the English, French, and Prussian Governments to their respective agents at that Court, overruled their hasty decision; and eventually, Count Buol himself agreed to adopt the Turkish proposals as the basis of a Protocol, and to forward it to St. Petersburg with the formal declaration, that 'the terms on which the Sublime Porte announces itself as willing to treat, are in conformity with the wishes of their Governments, and of a nature to be communicated to the Russian Cabinet.'"

This new project of pacification has, as we now learn, been definitely rejected by Russia, who is consequently at issue, not with the Porte, but with the Four Powers.

It would appear from the despatches, that even before the affair of Sinope, Lord de Redcliffe was authorised to despatch the English fleet, whenever it might become expedient, into the Black Sea, for the protection of the Turkish coasts; and it was only in consequence of an accidental impediment, relating to the French fleet, that that measure was not adopted when the news of Sinope arrived at Constantinople. When the intelligence reached London and Paris, the English and French Governments simultaneously decided on the necessity of assuming the entire command of the Euxine. On the 27th of December, Lord Clarendon directed her Majesty's Minister at St. Petersburg to communicate to Count Nesselrode the decision which had been formed. Having stated the fact, Lord Clarendon says:—

"The feelings of horror which this dreadful carnage could not fail to create have been general throughout all ranks and classes of her Majesty's subjects in this country. The circumstances which have attended this disastrous affair are of the greatest importance, and with respect to them it is necessary that there should be no misunderstanding between her Majesty's Government and the Cabinet of St. Petersburg. The object with which the combined fleets were sent to Constantinople was not to attack Russia, but to defend Turkey; and the English and French Ambassadors and Admirals were informed, that the fleets, were not to assume an aggressive position, but that they were to protect the Turkish territory from attack. On the 27th of October you informed Count Nesselrode of the nature of these instructions, and the service upon which her Majesty's fleet would be employed; and her Majesty's Government hoped that that communication, made in no unfriendly spirit to Russia, would have been sufficient to prevent an attack upon a Turkish harbour which is Turkish territory. Had the Turkish squadron been about to make a descent upon Scoum-Kale, as is stated in a despatch from Prince Menschikoff to Prince Gortschakoff, which there is every reason to consider authentic, if it had been fallen in with and destroyed by the Russian fleet off the Russian coasts in Asia, her Majesty's Government, however much they might have lamented such a disastrous loss of life, would have regarded it as an ordinary though unfortunate casualty of war. But the Sultan's squadron was destroyed while at anchor in a Turkish harbour, and where, consequently, the English and French fleets, if they had been present, would have protected it, and would have repelled the attack. The Russian Admiral, how-

ever, must have acted upon the orders of his Government, which Government was well aware of the instructions which were to guide the British and French Admirals, and her Majesty's Government are compelled, therefore, to consider that it was not the Turkish squadron alone that was deliberately attacked in the harbour of Sinope."

It would have been a sincere satisfaction to her Majesty's Government (continues Lord Clarendon) that the combined fleets should have remained at anchor in the Bosphorus while negotiations were pending—

"But this has been rendered impossible by the attack on the Turkish squadron at Sinope. The intentions of the English and French Governments, which were long since announced to the Porte, must be firmly and faithfully executed. For this purpose, although with no hostile design against Russia, it is essential that the combined fleets should have the command of the Black Sea; and the necessary instructions have accordingly been addressed to the Ambassadors and Admirals of England and France. In making known to Count Nesselrode that such instructions have been sent, you will govern yourself by the language of this despatch, and you will inform his Excellency that, in order to prevent the recurrence of disasters such as that at Sinope, the combined fleets will require, and, if necessary, compel Russian ships-of-war to return to Sebastopol, or the nearest port; and it is considered that the Turkish fleet should undertake no aggressive operations by sea so long as matters remain in their present state."

In reply to the above, Sir G. H. Seymour writes, that "no expression is to be found in the French despatch like that with which your Lordship's despatch concludes:—'It is considered that the Turkish fleet should undertake no aggressive operations by sea so long as matters remain in their present state.' As your lordship does not authorise me to read your despatch to the Chancellor, General Castelbajac has determined not to communicate his instruction to his Excellency, but merely to give him its substance, and that this may be done faithfully we made notes of the points upon which particular stress was to be laid."

In a succeeding despatch Sir H. Seymour reports a conversation in which he declared to Count Nesselrode, in so many words, that the great forbearance hitherto shown as to the entrance of the ships into the Black Sea "was no longer possible." The last conversation with Count Nesselrode is reported in a letter written on the 13th of January. The Count was then ill; but diplomatic considerations perhaps induced him, at this conversation, as well as others previously, not to say much—not to answer, except upon abstract points. For example, he questioned the right of England and France to feel aggrieved by the affair of Sinope, which he represented as a mere accident of the local war, and not at all intended as a demonstration against the Western Powers. In this last conversation, Sir Hamilton told Count Nesselrode that every Russian ship would be required to re-enter a Russian port. "It is painful to me," he continued, "M. le Comte, to make such an allusion; but if the summons is not attended to, it will be enforced" (*on aura recours à la force*). In the course of the conversation, "Count Nesselrode said that he felt obliged to observe, that it was most unfortunate that her Majesty's Government should have determined upon taking measures of so decided a character, at the precise moment when strenuous efforts were being made at Vienna for coming to a peaceable arrangement." The most curious incident in the Russian proceedings, however, is the point of honour on which the Czar appears to stand. In the conversation with Sir Hamilton Seymour on the 24th of December, Count Nesselrode said, "the conduct pursued towards the Russian Cabinet was unheard-of—the Sultan was consulted as to the conditions upon which he was disposed to make peace!" "Then again, the idea of asking Russia to send a plenipotentiary to meet a Turkish plenipotentiary under the auspices of the Allied Ministers was perfectly novel—was an indignity which would be offered only to one of the smallest of the European States—was a course which, during the last hundred years, Russia had never submitted to in her intercourse with Turkey, and to which she could not now be expected to lend herself." Sir Hamilton could not understand how Russia should feel humiliated, or how she should feel hurt, because in a question of avowed European interest, Europe chose to attend to that interest. "This comes," replied Count Nesselrode, "from your not choosing to put yourselves in our situation." How would England feel, he asked, if some great power had offered to interfere to settle her differences with China? No European interests, replied Sir Hamilton, were engaged there; but if assistance in settling differences had been offered, it would have been gladly received by her Majesty's Government. At a subsequent conversation, the Chancellor again adverted to "the extreme repugnance of his Majesty" to admit a Turkish negotiator.

Nothing is more distinctly established by the papers than the complete accord between the French and English Governments. This appears even by the very freedom with which differences of counsel are suggested. Alluding to a communication from the Austrian Ambassador at Paris, Lord Cowley recites the reply which M. Drouyn de Lhuys proposed to make. "I observed," said Lord Cowley, "that he might add," and so forth. The relation between the two Governments is throughout that of genuine consultation and joint action.

The position of Prussia comes out principally in her acquiescence with the proceedings of the Four Powers, and what appears to be a general approval. Baron Manteuffel, for example, freely expresses his opinion that the Turkish reply to the (second) note of the four representatives at Constantinople "was moderate and well drawn up."

The position of Austria in the negotiations is such as to give some grounds for Lord John Russell's hope, that the Government at Vienna may not break with the Western Powers. Count Buol, no doubt, took some exception to "the decided and menacing position" of the French and English Governments after



the Sinope affair; but, through M. de Bourqueney, he assured M. Drouyn de Lhuys, that the Austrian Government, "although not prepared for the lengths to which the two Governments had gone, would not separate from them in consequence." Count Buol expressed a wish to Lord Westmoreland that Austria should be the channel to urge pacific proposals upon Russia. In accordance with this view, he drew up a despatch to the Austrian Minister at St. Petersburg, which he showed to Lord Westmoreland. This despatch "was highly approved" by the representatives of the Four Powers; statesmen, let us observe, remarkable for the pertinacity with which, while acknowledging that the Porte acted in accordance with their wishes, they continued to declare their "confidence" that Russia would resume negotiations to conclude peace. Count Buol's despatch is described by Lord Westmoreland—

"The tone of this despatch is full of friendly interest for the Emperor Nicholas; but it does not fail to point out to him the anxious expectation of the Austrian Government, that in pursuance of that respect for the maintenance of the tranquillity and independence of the states of Europe by which his policy has been distinguished, he will seize this opportunity of putting an end to a state of things which, by being prolonged, might compromise all those interests which he has hitherto so eminently co-operated in maintaining."

### Foreign and Colonial.

#### RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

##### COUNT ORLOFF'S MISSION.

The exact tenor of the proposal brought by Count Orloff to Vienna has not yet transpired, but we (the *Times*) know that it was successively and peremptorily rejected by the Emperor Francis Joseph in person, by his Ministers, and by the Conference of the Four Powers, who signed a further protocol to that effect. The Russian Envoy Extraordinary did not, however, think fit to quit Vienna even after this rebuff, and, even under pretence of a trifling indisposition, has delayed his departure for a few days. It was inferred from this circumstance, that Count Orloff's first proposal was not this last, that he is still trifling with the representatives of the Four Courts, and that he may possibly have discretionary powers to treat on a wider basis.

The *Morning Chronicle* intimates that Prince Metternich had endeavoured to persuade the Austrian Government to join the military as well as diplomatic operations of the Western Powers, and that the Emperor of Austria had declared to Count Orloff, that if the Russians cross the Danube he will consider the same as a declaration of war.

From Berlin we learn that the proposal addressed to the Prussian Government by M. Budberg, the Russian Minister at that court, was nothing less than a demand that Prussia should conclude an alliance of the most intimate character with the Emperor Nicholas, who offered to protect Prussia from the consequences of such an engagement by sea and by land. To this insolent proposition M. Manteuffel, as Foreign Minister, replied, with becoming dignity, that Prussia stood in no need of foreign protection, and that she would enter into no alliances on such terms; but that, under any circumstances, Russia would not be capable of affording protection to her coasts and ports against the fleets of England, or to the Rhenish provinces against the armies of France.

It is said that the Cabinet of Berlin has even expressed an intention of joining in the measures contemplated by England and France, should Russia obstinately persist in refusing the terms which the Four Powers have already approved; and it is understood that the king himself has announced the decision of his government in an autograph letter to St. Petersburg. It is also stated that at the sitting of the Council of State the Prince of Prussia had pronounced himself against all neutrality and tergiversation. "He was ready to do honour," he said, "to the noble qualities of his brother-in-law the Emperor Nicholas, but, as a Prussian prince and heir presumptive to the throne, he did not hesitate to declare that the moment was come for Prussia to assume a decisive attitude, and to notify to the Cabinets of Europe that a refusal to accept the propositions of the Conference would force Prussia to take her stand by the side of the Western Powers, and to follow them to all extremities."

The Emperor Nicholas has returned his answer to the Turkish proposals adopted by the Vienna Conference. He declares them to be quite unsatisfactory, that he will allow of no mediation between himself and Turkey, and that Turkey, if she wishes to treat, may send an ambassador to St. Petersburg. For any further information the members of the Conference are referred to their respective Courts.

We (*Morning Post*) understand that, as soon as the official notification (now on its way) of the breaking-up of the Vienna Conference reaches London and Paris, the Western Powers will at once address a summons to evacuate the Danubian Principalities; and, in the event of her refusal, they will declare war.

##### THE WAR ON THE DANUBE.

The accounts from the Danube are that the right wing and centre of the Russian corps in Little Wallachia were advancing towards Kalafat. On the other hand, Izzet Pasha, Governor of Belgrade, is reported to have announced that Omer Pasha had passed the Danube at Oltenitza with a large corps. The *Patrie* also states that Omer Pasha, having crossed the Danube with 50,000 men, had divided the Russian army, the right wing of which is at Krajowa, the left at Galatz, and the centre at Bucharest. He was only two days' march from the latter town, where the Russian forces are weak.

On the 26th, the Russian troops still occupied their old positions in and around Radovan. The floods render the reconnoitering expeditions of the Turks impossible at present. On the 21st, those Russian regiments which were engaged from the 5th to the 15th, and suffered such heavy losses, were withdrawn to Krajowa, having been relieved by fresh troops. On the 23rd, the whole staff of the Commander-in-Chief arrived at Boleshtie, as a grand reconnoissance was very shortly to take place against Kalafat.

Another report from the Danube is to the effect that Omer Pasha is unwell, and requires rest and great care. The Sultan has requested Baraguay d'Hilliers to send Dr. Larvel, a French physician, to attend him.

A medical journal of Vienna states that the number of sick amongst the Russians in Wallachia is 10 per cent., and in certain localities 36 per cent.; also, that the number of deaths in January was more considerable than in December.

The Wallachian peasantry continue to be animated by the most hostile feelings towards the Russians. They are excited to resistance by the Boyards, who, if the Russians gained a firm footing in the country, would be obliged to serve in the Russian army, pay heavy taxes, and submit to the heavy yoke which Russian employes always impose. The Boyards, who have promised the peasants to abolish villeinage and socage, long to be placed on the former footing with the Turks, with whom they have for many years lived in peace and quiet. "Woe to the Russians if they are beaten!" exclaims the Wallachian correspondent.

The dismissal of Prince Gortschakoff is denied, and it is said that he has been promoted to the rank of generalissimo of three corps of the army. He receives, it is said, the title of commander-in-chief of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th army corps, and the emperor has ordered that a gratification of 10,000 ducats be paid him from the civil list of the Hospodar of Wallachia. General Dannenberg is stated to be ill.

Colonel Dieu has made a report to the French ambassador upon the state of the Turkish army of the Danube. The Turks, he declares, are perfectly capable of withstanding the Russians for a length of time. The army is provided with everything in sufficiency except cavalry, for 30,000 horse is not sufficient in proportion to 150,000 foot, especially as the Russians can dispose of a much stronger force of cavalry. Dieu, moreover, praises the discipline of the men, and the respect felt by them for Omer Pasha. He particularly recommends the prompt drilling and training of the present irregular troops.

##### THE FLEETS.

The combined fleets returned to the Bosphorus on the 22nd without having seen a single Russian vessel during the three weeks' cruise. The "Niger," sent with despatches countermanding the return of the fleets, only met them close to the Bosphorus. The cause of the return of the fleets is generally supposed to be the want of good harbours, and the risks of the Euxine at this season. On the intelligence being known at Constantinople, the ambassadors met and adopted a letter to the admirals, which, according to the *Daily News*, was to the following effect:—

"The ambassadors express surprise at the sudden resolution of the admirals, more particularly at the present moment, when a Turkish steam flotilla is on the point of starting with ammunition and other stores for the army of Anatolia. The orders of the French and British governments which reached this by the Caton, about ten days ago, were formal and precise, respecting the protection to be afforded by the combined fleets to the Ottoman flag and territory, and the attention of both admirals is again called to the stringent nature of these instructions, which had been duly notified to them. The admirals, it would appear, consider that the measures intrusted to their execution may be equally well effected, whether the force under their command be stationed at Beicos or Sinope. This is a matter which must entirely depend on their own judgment, and on them the responsibility will rest. The ambassadors decline to interfere in all matters connected with nautical experience, and confine themselves merely to those within the sphere of their political department."

Letters from Constantinople of the 17th state that a fresh reinforcement of 6,000 men was then embarking for the army of Asia, and also a quantity of artillery and ammunition. They were to be landed with the troops at Batoum.

##### THE MASSACRE AT SINOPÉ DRAMATISED.

A play is repeated nightly at the Petersburg theatre, written with a view to excite public opinion against the Turks. The following passages are received with most applause: The Russian naval officer, who is the principal part, exclaims, "If they will not give me a vessel to command, I will sell all the men of my village to buy a frigate and go and attack the Turks. One Russian is more than a match for three Turks." "Let us show our fidelity to our flag; let us not understand it like the people of the West, but like brave Russians that we are." When he receives the news of the battle of Sinope, he exclaims, "Behold how our Emperor chastises the impious for their perfidy! Our young fleet is the finest in the world, thanks to Lazareff." This play, which is a very mediocre affair, is interspersed with cheering, which is taken up by the pit. It terminates with a *tableau* of the roadstead at Sebastopol at the moment of the arrival of the Turkish prisoners, among whom Osman Pasha, carried on a litter, is a prominent feature. The Grand Duke (heir apparent), and the Grand Dukes Constantine, Nicholas, and Michel, were present at the first representation of this drama. The Imperial box was filled with naval officers and the children of those on board the fleet at the Black Sea. At the third representation the Grand Duke Nicholas alone was present. The Emperor has issued an order that fifty soldiers are to be admitted every night to the *Battle of Sinope*.

The Grand Duke Constantine, who has placed himself at the head of the old Russian party, has shown considerable dissatisfaction at the expectant attitude taken by the Government after the receipt of the com-

munication of the maritime Powers, and it is said, urges the Czar to reject the last propositions of the Divan. He does not conceal his irritation against M. de Nesselrode.

##### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Letters from Stockholm refer in explicit terms to the existence of a strong partiality for a good understanding with England and France, in opposition to the aggressive designs of Russia. This feeling is not only general throughout the nation—as is, indeed, proved by the recent voting of war supplies by the Diet without even a discussion—but the same anti-Russian spirit is confidently affirmed to be equally strong in the highest circles in the kingdom.

It is announced that the Russian officer who commanded the port of Sebastopol in the absence of the Admiral has been cashiered for having suffered the British frigate, "Retribution," to enter the port, contrary to the existing regulations. It has been further said, that this officer has been sent as a private soldier to a regiment in the province of Orenburg.

The *Daily News* reports the liberation of Mr. Bell, the English engineer, taken prisoner in the Black Sea. A letter, dated St. Petersburg, 24th January, states that, on the 21st, a letter arrived from the English Foreign Office, and that within twenty-four hours an order was given that Mr. Bell should be released, and have permission to leave the country.

The *Patrie* learns that the reinforcement preparing at Constantinople for Asia will comprise an effective force of 30,000 men, and will be sent by four convoys escorted by French and English ships of war.

It is rumoured that Milosch, with Russian troops, has crossed the Servian frontier.

The Russian fleet is said to be stationed at Kaffa or Theodosia.

A contract on behalf of the English Government for coal sufficient for steamers of the aggregate amount of 11,000 horse-power has been concluded at Copenhagen.

According to the accounts of the officers, French and English, on board the "Retribution," they were enabled to take tolerably accurate plans of the town and fortress during an interval of two or three hours, allowed for the delivery of her despatches, and the receipt of an acknowledgement of them from the vice-governor. To attack the town from the sea side would be difficult; but the coast within a few miles of Sebastopol is easy of access, and, according to the reports of our officers, its capture might be effected with about twenty-five thousand men at the present moment.

In spite of the prohibition recently published by the Russians, the English merchant vessels are busily employed in conveying all kinds of stores from Constantinople to Varna.

##### FRANCE.

By an Imperial decree, dated the 2nd, the convocation of the Senate and of the Legislative body, fixed for the 27th instant, is adjourned to the 2nd of March.

In the telegraph summary of the Queen's speech sent to Paris on Tuesday, the commentaries of the *Times* were incorporated with the speech itself, and the Queen was made to say that she desired to "anticipate a struggle" against a "common enemy." This version, no doubt concocted for very culpable purposes, created considerable stir until the speech itself arrived. Both the *Patrie* and the *Presse* speak favourably of the Queen's speech, describing it as sufficiently firm and dignified in substance, while moderate in form.

M. de Kisseleff had an interview in the afternoon of Thursday with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who communicated to him the "explanations" demanded. They are, in substance, that the Powers do not intend to maintain, in the Black Sea, the neutrality as interpreted by Russia, and that they cannot place Russia and Turkey on perfect equality, seeing that they are resolved to protect the Turkish squadron and the Turkish territory from the attacks of the Russians—the weaker against the stronger. M. de Kisseleff is said to have, on the spot, demanded from M. Drouyn de Lhuys his passports—a request which the Minister said he should forthwith communicate to the Emperor, and take his orders. He left Paris on Monday. Before leaving he wrote a circular to all the Russian residents there, recommending them to return to their native country as soon as possible.

A Cabinet Council was held on Saturday at the Tuileries, when the Emperor manifested his desire that, now that diplomatic relations were broken off between France and Russia, the most effectual measures should be taken forthwith to bring matters to a speedy and successful conclusion.

It is stated that orders for the march of the first division of a French army to Turkey have actually been sent to Africa. The Chasseurs d'Afrique a Cheval, the Zouaves, and the Chasseurs de Vincennes, now in Algeria, will be the first to leave. The organisation of the new battalions of Chasseurs d'Afrique is going on with great activity. Almost all the officers appointed to the 17th battalion have arrived at Toulouse, and the different detachments from infantry regiments which are to be incorporated in the battalion are shortly expected there. The organisation of this battalion will, says a Toulouse journal, be completed by the end of this month. The battalions forming at other places are equally if not even more advanced. A letter from Arras states that a great number of shells, cannon-balls, and other military stores, have been despatched by railway from that arsenal to Metz.

##### PRINCE NAPOLEON AT BRUSSELS.

The visit paid by the Prince de Chimay to the Emperor of the French has, it would seem, been returned by a visit of Prince Napoleon to Brussels. He arrived there on Monday (last week) by railway. The Duke de Brabant, M. Charles de Brouckere, Burgomaster of Brussels, and bodies of troops, received Prince Napoleon at the terminus. Five Court carriages were in attendance; in one of these he drove to the Palace, and was immediately visited by the King in the apartments assigned to him. With the Duke de Brabant,



Prince Napoleon then waited on the Duchess; and subsequently returned the visit of the King. In the evening, there was a grand dinner at the Court. The *Belgian Moniteur* announces that "the King has conferred the insignia of a Grand Cordon of the Ordre de Leopold on his Imperial Highness Prince Napoleon Bonaparte." The French Prince was present at the fourth Court ball given on Wednesday, and danced with the Duchess of Brabant. The *Moniteur*, after giving an account of the last dinner and Court ball at Brussels in honour of Prince Napoleon, says:—"The visit of Prince Napoleon terminated as it commenced. The Duke of Brabant accompanied him to the railway station, the same cortege, the same ceremonial, and the same display of troops taking place as on his arrival. The royal carriages carried his Highness and all his suite to the railway, passing through a compact crowd, which gave him even a more cordial reception than on the day of his arrival. There is no doubt that the visit of Prince Napoleon will leave in the minds of the people of Brussels reminiscences which are calculated to draw closer and closer the bonds of friendship existing between the two countries."

The *Emancipation*, of Brussels, says, M. Leclerc arrived at Brussels with the Prince Napoleon, bearer of a proposition of a nature to be immediately converted into a treaty of commerce.

Expectations are entertained that the Duke and Duchess of Brabant will pay a visit to Paris, in return for the visit of Prince Napoleon to Brussels.

#### STATE OF SPAIN.

Letters from Spain, published in the journals, speak of the growing disgust of the people at the profligacy of the Court. Fierce documents, asking whether there "are no longer any swords in the country of the Cid," and invoking the heroes of Zaragoza and Gerona, are circulated on all sides. The Spaniards are called to arms to the cry of "Death to the Favourite!" and "Hurrah for the Constitution and Liberty!" Another inflammatory document, headed "Historical Recollections," classifies the history of Spain into periods, each characterised by six sovereigns; the drift of it is to show, that nationality flourished under Ferdinand and Isabella; declined under the house of Austria; and was lost in favouritism under the house of Bourbon, which entailed the loss of America, the intrusion of French ideas, "scandals, immorality, prostitution, and pillage, in the Court and Government." The last section boldly prognosticates:—"The house of Braganza begins to reign—Union of Spain and Portugal—Pedro the Fifth."

One of the proscribed Generals, O'Donnell, has not given himself up; and another General, Shelly, has been deprived of his command.

A decree suppressing passports was signed on the 25th January by the Queen of Spain.

#### AMERICAN NOTES.

President Pierce had issued a proclamation respecting the invasion of Mexico, declaring that he will rigidly enforce the penalties of the law against those who join in attempts to invade a friendly power; conduct so criminal and so derogatory to the national character.

A great effort is to be made during the present session of Congress to obtain the repeal of the entire duty on the importation of foreign—including English—books. But piratical interests are strong both at New York and Washington. The Secretary of the American Treasury is in favour of a modification of existing duties. He proposes that, instead of the 10 per cent. now paid, all books printed before the year 1830 shall enter the ports of the United States free of duty,—and that all books printed since the year 1830 shall pay a duty of 25 per cent. on their value.

M. Bedini is in Washington, a guest of M. Sartiges, the French Minister. The Nuncio, being in dread of personal injury from those who have participated in the demonstrations against him, has personally applied to the President and members of the Cabinet for some sort of diplomatic recognition, as a means of greater security, basing his claim upon the fact that he brought an autograph letter from the Pope to the President. It is understood that the Secretary of State declined to sign any other paper than a mere passport, whereupon the Nuncio's secretary, and many of his friends, are reported to have intimated, among other things, that the consequences would be visited upon Mr. Cass, jun., our *chargé* at Rome. Under these circumstances, General Cass introduced a resolution into the Senate, calling upon the Government for any papers in its possession concerning M. Bedini's position, on which a lengthened discussion took place. The Nuncio had received visitors, dressed in his scarlet robes of pontifical honour and state, at the house of Postmaster-General Campbell.

We learn from Lower California that the Mexican accounts of the overthrow and complete annihilation of the forty-five filibusters under Captain Walker were incorrect. By last advices the war was not over; nevertheless, the handful of invaders maintained possession of their new seat of Government without aid from any quarter. It does not appear that any preventive steps had been taken by the authorities.

John Mitchell, through his paper the *Citizen*, was advocating the cause of slavery. He had expressed a wish that he was the owner of a plantation of negroes in Alabama. The Rev. Henry Ward Beecher had replied in the *Independent*, from which we extract the following passages:—"When Mr. Mitchell sends greetings to the South after the fashion of the extract with which we pollute a little spot in our paper, he may be praised by a few men who have a purpose, and are willing to use unprincipled men; but among the sober, the considerate, the honourable men of the South, such a sudden and gross revolution would be received with disgust. If there must be a defence of slavery, men will feel—and nowhere more than at the

South—that he should not volunteer who has himself tasted the cup of its bitterness, and whose frantic outcries under oppression are yet ringing in the ear."

#### FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The late Mr. Thomason, Governor of the North-west Provinces of India, has bequeathed his valuable library to the Government College at Agra.

In the Dutch Colony of Surinam, the manumission of slaves is going on "in real earnest." Sunday schools are about to be established.

Mrs. Douglas has been sentenced, by the Judge of the Superior Court of Norfolk, in the United States, to be imprisoned for a month, for teaching negroes to read and write: the law would have warranted a more severe punishment.

Castor-oil plants have been found on the banks of the Umgeni, in Natal; and a merchant has directed that a quantity of the nuts shall be collected to be sent to England to ascertain their value for the production of oil.

Letters from Königsberg state that Mr. Sturge and his two friends, who have gone on a mission of peace to the Czar, passed through that town on the 26th January, on their way to St. Petersburg.

Mademoiselle Wagner has been appointed "royal chamber singer" to the King of Prussia.

Mademoiselle Rachel has given 40,000 rubles for the use of the military invalids at St. Petersburg.

Mademoiselle Georges, once a favourite French actress, has been so reduced in circumstances, that she has applied for the situation of umbrella-taker at the Great Exhibition in Paris.

A young baritone is making a sensation on the stage at Florence. He was a poor, uninstructed youth, a sand-heaver on the Arno, before his fine voice was discovered by his patrons. Rossini pronounces him the finest baritone yet heard.

The Maine at Frankfort recently presented a lively aspect—thousands of persons skating on it by day, and at night by the light of torches; while sledges, hazard-tables, grog-shops, and eating-houses, were in abundance.

The Empress of the French has undertaken to provide for two of the children of the woman Hubschen, who worked as a railway-navigator to support her sick husband and family. They are to be trained up—a boy to become a good workman, and a girl to be an industrious and honest workwoman, not as a "mademoiselle."

The *Portland Advertiser* (U.S.) states, that during the late storm a mail carrier, between Ellsworth and Machias, was devoured by wolves.

New Caledonia, an island, or rather a group of islands, lying to the eastward of New South Wales, has been taken possession of by the French, and a settlement formed. It would thus appear that the French have no serious intentions of abandoning their position in the South Seas.

The Earl of Carlisle has delivered an address before the members of the Malta Literary and Scientific Institute.

Letters have been received from Behring's Straits stating that the "Plover" was still at Point Barrow, where she would remain until relieved by the Admiralty.

Pearls have been found at Moreton Bay, New South Wales. We (*Australian and New Zealand Gazette*) understand that the Rev. Mr. Stoeber, chaplain to Lords Henry Scott and S. Ker, has in his possession a pearl from Moreton Bay, which, according to the rate of valuation of the Sidney jewellers, should be worth at least ten pounds.

Several persons have endeavoured to induce Lamennais, who is very ill, to send for a Roman Catholic priest, but in every case without success. The well-known Father Ventura was most pressing to be allowed to speak to the patient, but M. de Lamennais gave the most positive orders not to admit him. A lady, "known for her devotion" (Mme. Cottie), succeeded in getting into the sick-room, and there, throwing herself on her knees by the bedside, besought M. de Lamennais to be reconciled with the Church; but her prayers were all to no effect, the patient declaring that not only would he not listen to any priest, but that his body should not have the usual prayers of the Roman Catholic Church said over it.

The King of Naples takes his children to church, and makes them walk barefooted for devotion, while political prisoners, unjustly tried and condemned by his own orders, are dying in chains. The King is giving away bread to the poor, and at the same time ordering the police to rob families—that is, by their being allowed to accept bribes for saving from imprisonment.

Silvio Pellico, the prisoner of Spielberg, has died of consumption, at the age of sixty-one.

In its sitting of the 31st ultimo, the Piedmontese Chamber of Deputies passed the bill for the abolition of the lottery, by a majority of ninety-eight votes to six.

The Mormons in England should make haste to join their brethren in the city of the Great Salt Lake. War has been declared against them by the Indians, who threaten their utter extermination. In a recently-issued address to "his people," Governor Brigham Young writes thus:—"Let your dwelling-house be a perfect fort. From the day I lived where brother Joseph Smith lived, I have been fortified all the time, so as to resist twenty men if they should come to my house in the night with an intent to molest my family, assault my person, or destroy my property; and I have always been in the habit of sleeping with one eye open; and, if I cannot then sufficiently watch, I will get my wife to help me. Let an hostile band of Indians come round my house, and I am good for quite a number of them. If one hundred should come, I calculate that only fifty of them shall be able to go to the next house; and if they use up the other fifty, the third house will be safe."

#### MARRIAGES, BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The report of the Registrar-General on Marriages, up to September 30th, in last year, and on births and deaths, to December 31st, 1853, has been issued.

79,572 persons were married during the quarter ending September 30th, 1853, a number considerably exceeding that of any corresponding quarter since the Registration Act came into operation in 1837, and 2,290 more than were married in the same period of 1852, when the large number of 76,682 persons were married. Marriages increased in most of the important seats of manufactures and commerce, but an augmented number is more particularly apparent in the mining districts of Cornwall and South Wales, of Staffordshire and Durham.

144,444 births were registered in the last three months of the year. This number, though slightly above the average, shows a considerable diminution on the numbers registered in the same period of the two preceding years (148,912 and 152,066 respectively). The number of deaths for the quarter being 103,341, there remains a balance of 41,103 as the natural increase of the population during that period. Large numbers of persons are still attracted to the Australian Colonies, as well as to America and other places, although a small decrease in the emigration is perceptible on the numbers of the corresponding quarter of 1852. From the four English ports which make returns, 50,457 persons emigrated during the last three months.

There died last quarter in England and Wales 103,341 persons. The period was unhealthy, and a greater number of lives was lost to the population than in any other autumnal quarter of the last 13 years, with only two exceptions: the fourth quarter of 1846, when the deaths rose to 108,937; and that of 1847, when they were 103,479. Cold weather towards the close of the year thinned the ranks both of old and young, and the latter class have also suffered much from fever, especially scarlatina, in many parts of the country. London makes a large contribution to this excess of mortality; for, in the metropolitan division, the deaths in October, November, and December, rose to 16,390, which is more by 2,709 than took place in the same quarter of the previous year. Cholera and typhus killed almost equal numbers, viz., 728 to 724; scarlatina and hooping-cough were rival powers of destruction, for 668 and 667 are claimed as their respective shares. In the summer months cholera was fatal in 137 cases, it rose to 728 in autumn; typhus (including continued fever, &c.) rose in the same periods from 686 to 724; scarlatina from 397 to 668; and hooping-cough from 426 to 667. 15 persons in London suffered death from cold, and the privation, from some cause, of the necessities of life; 27 were the victims of their own intemperate habits. In the last quarter large town populations were unhealthy, but, judging from the mortality, smaller towns and the inhabitants of the open country appear to have enjoyed as much health as usual.

The chief articles of food have greatly risen in price since the three months ending December, 1852; wheat, which was then 40s. 5d. per quarter, has risen to 69s. 10d., being an increase of 73 per cent.

Beef and mutton rose in price; and potatoes, which were 10s. per ton at the waterside market, Southwark, in December, 1852, rose to 150s. in the December quarter, 1853, being an augmentation in price equivalent to 43 per cent. The continued activity of trade and the increased rate of wages has enabled the labouring classes for the most part to cope with the dearth of provisions; but, in conjunction with the severity of the weather and the exorbitant price of fuel, it has been a season of trial; which has, however, been borne with exemplary patience and fortitude by those who were most exposed to its rigours.

It will be a happy circumstance, says the Registrar-General, if the germs of diseases, which first affected the potatoe and the vine, and other plants, in the year of high temperature, 1846, and have led to the loss of so much food, should be partially destroyed by the severe cold that set in at the close of the year.

#### CHINA.

##### THE TESTAMENT AND MISSIONARY MOVEMENT.

The following is an extract from a letter written by the Rev. Dr. Medhurst, and dated Shanghai, Nov. 30, 1853. "We have just received a communication from the Bible Society," he says, "relative to the million copies of the New Testament, to be printed with all possible speed. The cost will be about £17,000. Yesterday, the Shanghai Corresponding Committee of the Bible Society met to deliberate on the way in which the said million copies could be produced. There was a delightful harmony prevailing between ourselves and our Episcopalian friends; the latter proposing, that the basis of the million copies should be the last revised edition of the Delegates' Version. The work was divided in the following manner:—

	Copies.
London Mission Press at Shanghai to print	115,000
Ditto at Hong-Kong to print	50,000
The Bishop of Victoria to print by blocks at various places	85,000
	250,000

All these to be completed within eighteen months from the 1st January, 1854." "But," he continues, "if the Bible Society have resolved to publish a million New Testaments,—what is the London Missionary Society going to do? Something corresponding, it is to be hoped,—something worthy of the occasion, and suitable for the reputation of the Protestant institution which first embarked in the cause of Christ's evangelization. The insurgents on the 28th of October, were at Jim-Khew, within 100 miles of Peking, with a broad paved carriage-road before them. Thus, their affairs



now look more prosperous than ever. In the meantime, should they prove successful, and open the country to missionaries, what means and agents have we at hand to avail ourselves of this Providential opening? At Shanghai, at present, you have only five missionaries; one incessantly engaged in attending to the wounded, among whom he has performed upwards of a dozen operations, by amputating legs and arms, in about a month. Another is already, and will now more than ever be, uninterruptedly engaged in the printing department; leaving only three who can be employed in preaching the Gospel. When the news came (perhaps a little prematurely) that Madagascar was opened, £6,000 immediately flowed into the London Missionary Society's coffers. *What has been done for China?* But something, we hope, will soon be done, and that effectually." Dr. Medhurst's question had already received the promise of a favourable answer; and the next mail will carry out the pledge and earnest of that promise being fulfilled. The advertised list of subscriptions already amounts to upwards of £7,000, although the number of congregational collections included in the list is but about 200, and that of these 50 are metropolitan.

#### ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

Dr. Howard, a physician of Upper Gloucester-street, who has published books on the effects of salt, and other matters denoting mental aberration, has committed suicide by swallowing prussic acid. He was a gentleman of independent means; his manner was "odd," but no one feared any violence.

M. Kay, the Queen's Highland piper, has become insane. He wrote to Colonel Phipps that he had documents proving that he was a lawful heir to the throne, but he had no wish to dispossess her Majesty. He requested an interview with the Colonel; this was granted, and when the poor lunatic arrived at Windsor Castle he was given into the care of proper keepers.

Literature has still its calamities, more wretched perhaps than those of any other calling, because falling on a class of persons more acutely susceptible. The newspapers have lately contained the following paragraph:—"Anna Maria Jones, authoress of 'The Gipsy,' and other popular novels of the day, died on Tuesday (the 24th ult.), at 17, Salisbury-place, Bermondsey, in the most abject poverty. Her remains await, in all probability, a pauper's funeral." Another case, no less melancholy, has occurred in another quarter of the town,—near Dorset-square. Dr. Robert Howard, a medical practitioner, who has published various works on the supposed deleterious influence of salt on the human frame, has been living there apparently in expectation that his books would ultimately bring him patients. By the practice of a pinching economy, he appears to have made respectable private resources support him for many years. But he had staked his all on the success of his books. The good sense of the public detected the latent insanity from which they proceeded, and kept aloof from the author. When the last sovereign was in the purse, and his attenuated frame had been brought to death's door by penurious living and agony of spirit, the overwrought mind gave way, and taking advantage of the means which his profession placed at his command, Dr. Howard hurried himself out of the world. His bare and melancholy dwelling gives testimony to the utter misery which had there been hidden from the world.—*Athenæum*.

Mr. Edward Melville Dolman, aged 38, a surgeon, in extensive practice at Limehouse, precipitated himself, a few days ago, from the second storey window of his late residence in Norway-terrace, Commercial-road.

The country between Bridgwater and Taunton is almost one sheet of water, from the overflowing of several streams since the late heavy rains.

On Monday a Frenchman, named Louis Montagnet, was committed for trial at the Manchester sessions, charged with stealing bills of exchange and other property, to the amount of nearly £10,000, from the bedrooms of the Queen's Hotel, Manchester. The prisoner, who went to that hotel on Saturday evening, contrived during a stay of two hours to visit several of the bedrooms, and abstract the property from the trunks of persons who were stopping in the house.

A death at a ball is recorded in the Cheltenham papers. Shortly before four o'clock on Friday morning, Mr. R. Leicester, of Cambridge-villas, in that town, who was attending the Bachelors' ball, at the Assembly-rooms, was suddenly seized with a fit, and died in ten minutes. A minute or two previous he was in the gallery talking to some friends, to whom he complained of the heat of the apartments. In consequence of this calamitous affair the ball was abruptly brought to a close.

Mr. Goalen, the principal of the audit department of the London and North-Western Railway Company, has been given into custody on a charge of extensive frauds involving an amount of between £5,000 and £6,000.

At the Central Criminal Court, on Friday, James Murray Rawlings, the young clergyman of the Church of England who on Monday pleaded guilty to forging and uttering an order for £80, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment and hard labour.

Allene Kimeyang, a Chinese, has been committed for trial at Leeds, charged with stealing £120, the property of his employer, Mr. Richardson, grocer and tea-dealer, Commercial-street. The prisoner had been for a considerable time employed by Mr. Richardson to serve his customers in the shop, and was attired in his native dress as a trade attraction. Nearly all the stolen money was found in his possession.

Some classes of workmen in the Government dockyards have obtained an increase of wages.

#### Court, Personal, and Political News.

The Court remains at Windsor. The Queen gave another dramatic entertainment on Thursday: this time it was the *Tempest*. A numerous and distinguished company witnessed the performance. On Friday, Prince Albert went out hunting, accompanied by the Duke of Bedford and Lord Ashburton.

The Queen has granted £50 as a gift to Miss Mackay, great granddaughter of the famous Flora Macdonald.

On Tuesday, the 14th instant, the Court will leave Windsor for Buckingham Palace. Her Majesty is not afterwards expected to return to Windsor before the Easter holidays. On the 10th inst., a grand banquet will be given in the Waterloo-chambers, Windsor Castle, in honour of Her Majesty's wedding-day.

The Earl of Aberdeen had a dinner party on Saturday, at his residence in Argyle-street.

Lord John Russell also had a Parliamentary dinner party on Saturday, at his residence in Chesham-place, and amongst his guests were Sir James W. Hogg, M.P., Mr. Butler, M.P., Mr. J. Cheetham, M.P., Mr. Moffat, M.P., Mr. John McGregor, M.P., Mr. Robert Ingham, M.P., Mr. J. Heywood, M.P., and Mr. Frank Crossley, M.P.

Mrs. Smith O'Brien has received a letter, dated 1st October, from her husband at Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land. He was then in good health, and had applied for a renewal of his parole for six months. It is expected he will shortly receive a pardon.

Mr. Alexander Smith, the author of "A Life Drama," has been elected Secretary of the Edinburgh University.

Three large cases have been brought by a vessel from Dunkirk containing presents to the Houses of Lords by the President of the French Senate, and intended for the library of the House.

Mr. Oliveira, M.P., stated, at a meeting held on Wednesday, that the committee for promoting the reduction of the duties on foreign wines, now consists of 700 members, including 100 members of Parliament, many presidents of chambers of commerce, heads of large firms, and mayors of corporations. The hon. member renews his motion on the 14th, if public business will allow, but it is feared that the present increased expenditure of the Government will prevent the Chancellor of the Exchequer from listening to his proposal.

On Wednesday morning, as the Earl of Anglesea was taking his usual morning walk, he was observed to rest against a lamp-post, when a gentleman, who knew him by appearance approached, and found that his weakness was the result of an attack of paralysis. He immediately conveyed him to Uxbridge House, when medical aid was at once called in. He has since greatly improved.

Richard Harris, Esq., head of the highly-esteemed firm of Harris and Sons, manufacturers, Leicester, died a few days since, in his 77th year. For some time past, our venerable fellow-townsmen (says the *Leicester Mercury*) had been declining in health, almost to the last moment, but Mr. Harris retained the most perfect consciousness of all that was passing around him; and, throughout the whole of his last trying illness, he awaited the hour of his dissolution with the calmness of a good man and a Christian. Our contemporary adverts to the progress which Leicester has made in population and manufactures since he gave such an impetus to what are termed the fancy branches—and to the upward and honourable career of one who, from being engaged as a mere youth in a printing-office (the late Sir R. Phillips's) and afterwards worked as an operative hosiery, not only raised himself to the position of one of the leading manufacturers of his native town, but, as its civic head, had the honour of presenting its loyal greetings to her Majesty, on her visiting the lord lieutenant of the county, and, at a subsequent period, of being returned, without opposition, as one of the representatives of this ancient borough in the Commons' House of Parliament. We must content ourselves with bearing our respectful testimony to his many estimable qualities as a man—to his public spirit as a citizen—to his unswerving fidelity to the cause of civil, commercial, and religious freedom—and to his liberal, but unostentatious, support of every movement tending to the intellectual and moral elevation of the town to whose commercial progress he had been so important a contributor during the past half-century.

A large and influential meeting of gentlemen representing the boroughs of England and Wales, was held on Thursday last, at Wood's Hotel, Farnival-inn, to take measures for opposing the unconstitutional measure for consolidating the police of counties and boroughs, recommended by the resolutions of a Select Committee of the House of Commons of last session, and understood to be under the contemplation of Government. The Right Honourable George Leeman, Lord Mayor of York, was called to the chair; and there were also present, the Mayors of Leeds, Bradford, Doncaster, Sunderland, Birmingham, Portsmouth, Winchester, Southampton, Chichester, Canterbury, Weymouth, Ipswich, Bedford, and Godalming; and Aldermen, Town Clerks, or other representatives of numerous other municipalities. After a long discussion, displaying a unanimous feeling, a resolution was adopted, declaring the contemplated measure for consolidating the police of counties and boroughs to be a most unjustifiable attack upon the rights and liberties of municipal corporations, and an unconstitutional interference with their privileges and independence. It was also resolved, that an immediate representation of the opinion of the meeting should be made, by a deputation, to the Secretary of State for the Home Department. Accordingly, a deputation, backed by several M.P.s., including Mr. Cobden, Mr. Bright, Mr. Walter, Mr. Monckton Milnes, and Mr. Scholefield,

waited on Lord Palmerston on Friday, who promised the most careful attention to their view.

On Saturday a deputation of merchants from the city waited upon the Duke of Newcastle at the Colonial-office for the purpose of tendering to his Grace their co-operation as a committee formed to promote the proposed Government expedition to explore the coast and interior of North Australia. Mr. W. S. Lindsay explained the circumstances under which the committee had been formed, and stated that they now waited on his Grace to offer all the practical service and co-operation in their power. They also desired to express the opinion they entertained of Mr. Haug, of his energy, and the time which he had devoted to the subject of the proposed expedition. They considered him well qualified to take part therein, and especially in the duty of exploring the interior. Mr. Lindsay proceeded to point out on the map the vast importance of this interior survey, and to indicate how it should be conducted. In his opinion, a passage should be attempted from the Victoria River right across the country to Adelaide. That river had been found navigable for frigates for sixty miles, and there was reason to think that it went a long way into the interior, and that its source, and that of the Albert, were not far from each other. The Duke of Newcastle said, that he had not yet seen Captain Stokes, to whom he had offered the command of the expedition as the fittest person for it. The course he proposed was this:—Having selected the gentleman whom he thought most competent to take charge of the expedition, to call upon him to frame a complete plan of operations in detail of the route to be explored, the proper starting point, the assistance required, the time to be occupied, the probable expense, and, after due consultation, the names of those gentlemen whom he would select to accompany him. He felt it better thus to make the head of the expedition responsible, of course taking counsel of those most competent to advise him, as, for instance, Sir H. de la Beche, on geology, and Sir William Hooker, on botany. When he obtained this general plan, he would be in a better position to decide whether the expedition should start at once with recommendations to the Governors of Australia, or whether, looking to the period of the year, it was desirable to postpone the starting, and in the meantime communicate with the Governors to obtain their co-operation. He had mentioned to Captain Stokes his wish that he (Mr. Haug) should form part of the expedition, and occupy a position in it adequate to his merits.

The General Screw Steam Packet Company have entered into a contract with the Government for the conveyance of the Australian mail once every two months, by large and powerful screw steamers. They have also entered into a contract for establishing a mail steam-packet communication between the different Australian ports. It is believed that their new ship, the "Golden Fleece," of 2,500 tons, will sail on the 4th of April. The "Harbinger," "Argo," "Cressus," and "Bosphorus," have already made successful passages.

At a "monster banquet" at Tuam, recently, Dr. Gray made a startling statement. He said a member of Parliament, "the chosen of a Catholic constituency," had, to his knowledge, entered into a negotiation to sell the office of a "paid guardian" of the poor, to "an active member of the Orange organization," for the sum of £300. Another speaker, a Mr. Kelly, said he knew of his own knowledge, that an independent member, in one of "the past Parliaments," had sold a stipendiary magistracy for £1,000!

Mr. Rowland Hill has addressed a letter, on behalf of the Post-office, to the railway authorities, insisting that an immediate stop be put to the present irregularities in the mail trains. The real source of delay is, he says, to be found, partly in stoppages at stations where they are not required by the mail service, but principally in the excessive traffic thrown on the mail trains. The Directors of the London and North-Western Railway flatly deny these allegations, and charge all the delays upon the Post-office officials.

The Society for Promoting the Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge held their annual meeting at their offices, Great Coram-street, on Thursday last, when resolutions were adopted in favour of the immediate repeal of the paper-duty and the newspaper stamp. This evening the Society held a soiree at the Whittington Club to celebrate the repeal of the advertisement duty, when Mr. Cobden, M.P., Mr. Milner Gibson, M.P., and other celebrities are likely to be present.

There are several elections forthcoming. South Devon is to be contested by two Conservatives—Mr. Lawrence Palk, an anti-Tractarian, and Sir Stafford Northcote, who leans to the present Government. He would not, said Sir Stafford, at a recent meeting, render a factious opposition to the present ministry, nor pledge himself to support their measures. No Liberal candidate has yet appeared, nor is it likely that there will be any opposition from that quarter. The Vote by Ballot Society have given notice of their intention to send down a candidate for the purpose of propagating their principles. The same society also intend, it is said, to propose a candidate at the nomination for West Sussex, for the purpose of calling the attention of the electors to the present state of the county representation. The Hon. W. F. Campbell has formally appeared before some of the electors of Cambridge, but with very little promise. At a meeting on Saturday, at which the young gentleman delivered a speech, which, obtains a couple of columns of notice in the *Morning Chronicle*, an amendment, recommending him not to prosecute a canvass, was carried by a large majority.

A deputation from the Wesleyan body, consisting of the Rev. Dr. Bunting, the Rev. Dr. Beecham, the Rev. Charles Prest, Mr. James Heald, Mr. J. P. Bunting, and the Rev. John Scott, had an interview with Viscount Palmerston on Monday at the Home-office,



## Miscellaneous News.

It is now necessary that travellers to France should be provided with passports, verified by the agents of France in England.

The inquest on the boy Medhurst, at East Acton, has terminated in a verdict of "Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown."

A balance yet remains of £715 out of moneys subscribed for the Holmfirth sufferers, and the Central Committee have resolved that pieces of plate shall be presented to six gentlemen who have performed the greatest labours in collecting and managing the fund.

The report of the London and North-Western Railway Literary Association states that the number of members is 280; the number of volumes in the library 1,090; the balance in hand £80. The number of books in the library has nearly doubled within the year.

Mr. Justice Crompton has admitted to bail Mr. Latham and Mr. Ashcroft, the officers of the Eastern Counties Railway against whom a verdict of "manslaughter" was returned by a coroner's jury.

The library and collection of MSS. of George Earl of Macartney, the Ambassador of China, who died in 1806, were sold by Messrs. Puttock and Simpson last week. Some of the manuscripts fetched a good price. "Two folio volumes of letters and documents addressed to Sir G. Downing, British Minister to the States General of the United Provinces of the Netherlands, 1364 to 1482," sold for £152.

The Crystal Palace will, it is expected, be opened to the public on the 24th of May—the Queen's birthday. Some intimation has been conveyed to the directors that her Majesty, although taking no official part in the ceremony, will be present. A large amount of traffic will be added to that already taking place over London-bridge, owing to the Brighton station on the Surrey side of the bridge being the starting point of the only railway likely to exist for some months between London and the Palace. The company have inquired of the Lord Mayor whether any steps are contemplated by the Corporation for providing additional bridge accommodation.

The movement for closing public-houses on Sunday has been revived. A few evenings since, a public meeting was held at Tottenham in furtherance of this object. The Rev. Isaac Doxsey supported the movement on the ground that as this nation, as a nation, had agreed that one day out of seven should be set apart for physical rest and mental improvement, it was perfectly consistent to unite for the purpose of removing any obstruction to the proper observance of that day. But that day was most flagrantly violated by a great number of intemperate persons, and that chiefly, if not entirely, in consequence of public-houses presenting temptations to the lovers of strong drink. There were many instrumentalities for the moral training of the young; but public-houses adopted plans for decoying the young, such as the singing of "sacred music," &c., which led to consequences of a very fearful description. Government had interfered to close betting-houses, because of their injurious tendency, and there was every encouragement to believe that they would interfere also to close public-houses, which were a still greater source of mischief. Mr. J. W. Green presented statistics, showing the great extent of the evil sought to be remedied by this movement. There were, in the United Kingdom, 132,689 houses open every Sunday for the sale of intoxicating liquors, requiring at least 398,067 persons to attend to the business. Supposing these houses to average an attendance of ten persons, there would be 1,326,890 persons seated in public-houses, drinking strong drinks, and, of course, absent from places of religious worship, or of healthy recreation. Supposing there to be but one million persons so employed, and spending but threepence each, there would be £12,500 spent every Sunday, to say nothing of waste of time, of health, of character, &c. It was high time that the moral and religious portion of the community should interfere to remove this source of temptation to the working-classes. The petition to the Legislature was adopted by the large and highly respectable meeting, and some clergymen and ministers declared their readiness to sign it.

## Literature.

## THE PERIODICALS (FEBRUARY).

It was one of the glories of the French revolution of February, 1848, that it was made, restrained, and guided by men of highest intellectual eminence, who had nearly all attained a prior fame in the cosmopolitan republic of science and letters. At the head of the Provisional Government was a man who, as poet, traveller, novelist, and historian had already secured an immortality of renown. Two of its departments—those of war and marine—were occupied by a veteran in the fields where ignorance and obscurity are vanquished together. Its chairs of justice and finance were given to a modern Aristides and a second Turgot. And a subordinate, yet conspicuous post, was held by a diminutive and youthful writer who was in a double sense a maker of histories.—A glory this, which neither the violence of treason, the fickleness of a people, nor the lapse of individual greatness, can ever blot from the memory of mankind.

We have been impelled to this apparently misplaced reminiscence, by the appearance in the number of the *North British Review* now before us, of an article headed, "Arago: his Life and

Discoveries." The special reputation of this Review would prepare us to meet with an able and impartial estimate in its pages of the illustrious Frenchman's services to optical, astronomical, and general science; but we could not have hoped for so enthusiastic a review and eulogium of his political career as we have found. The following paragraph is but a summary of the facts and praises spread over nearly fifty pages:—

"It is difficult to draw in a few definite lines the character of a man like Arago, presented to us as it is under so many phases, and viewed from so many points of sight. A child of the first revolution—a stripling during the consulate and military sway of Napoleon—a public teacher under the restoration—a legislator under the unconstitutional regime of Louis Philippe—a cabinet minister under the provisional government—a deputy under the second republic—and a dying man under the second empire—we find him carried, a patriot, to his grave by the representatives of all the conflicting opinions, and all the antagonist authorities of his country. Through what dangerous quicksands must such a course have lain? How many Charybdises must the pilgrim have crossed, and how many Scyllas evaded in so stormy a passage to the grave? It would be difficult to delineate in its noblest outline and godlike form the character of a patriot and a philanthropist, two inseparable names; but that statesman is, doubtless, deserving of the double title who has lived simply and died in poverty—who has refused salaries that he had earned, and emoluments that he had won, and who has spent his life in developing the only true sources of national greatness and social regeneration—the education of the commonwealth—the advancement of science, literature, and the arts—the simplification of knowledge, and the diffusion of it among all classes of the people. In its highest meaning Arago was a statesman, and one of that honoured group whose destiny it has been to take an efficient part in these various branches of their country's service. But in thus serving his country, he became the benefactor of the human family. Every step in the patriot's career, though primarily taken for his country, is ultimately taken for mankind. The lesson which is taught, and the example which is set on the Seine or on the Thames, will be learned and imitated on the Mississippi and on the Volga. The law of truth and justice which triumphs over European anarchy, will yet tame the ferocious Tartar, and fix the wandering Arab."

The paper concludes with an indignant rebuke of a late *Quarterly Review* article—an "attack fulminated for the instruction of English conservatives,—an attack written and issued when Arago was lying blind on his deathbed, and unable to put forth the paw of the lion to crush his antagonist."

The new science of "Geographical Botany" (or Phytology)—which deals with the local distribution of plants—is the subject of an article neither so complete nor so attractive as we would desire. But just the contrary is the case with "The Text of Shakspeare,"—an article which, opening with a vindication of textual criticism, reviews the bewilderingly numerous attempts at editing what needs but to be truly restored, and gives some well chosen examples of the uncertainty which still hangs over even most familiar Shakspearean passages. It is remarked, in passing—for the first time, we believe—that no bequest is made of the plays in the famous will, though to two of the author's fellow actors are left "twenty shillings and eight-pence a piece to buy them rings." Considerable value is awarded to Mr. Payne Collier's emendations, against the decision of Mr. Charles Knight and others.

A review of Messrs. "Conybeare and Howson on St. Paul," not only awards high praise to the design, execution, and influence of their work, but makes it the text of strictures on the state of exegetical learning at the English Universities. A paper on "University Representation" defends, almost assumes, the right of learned bodies to special enfranchisement; and admits the claim of the London University, but not as "par excellence the Medical University." "Herodotus" is the sufficiently descriptive title of an article in which the great poet-historian is written of with the admirable "determination not to give up to the critics one fragment of personal narrative that can be rescued from them." Perhaps the most interesting portion of the paper—altogether interesting—is that on the connexion of Herodotus with Sophocles; in the imaginative and moral qualities of whose works there is such a striking resemblance. A very dismal picture of religion and morals in the German States is the introduction to an article on the "Struggles and Tendencies of German Protestantism,"—the present "mission" of which is pronounced to be that of self-regeneration, and its progress in that direction hopeful, though heavily resisted. The concluding article of the number—a solidly wealthy one—is a resumé of the Eastern Question, written with wonderful freshness of style, and in a very decided spirit. Thus, we are told of Turkey—"of all the powers of Europe, she is, we feel bound and proud to say, the only one who has acquitted herself in all points well—the only one who has made no blunder, neglected no duty, committed no injustice." Among the "contingencies" of the war, the interference of America is mentioned positively and prominently:—

"The retirement of England and France from the scene, to leave Turkey to such fate as her own unaided resources could command, would probably be the signal for the immediate interference of our Transatlantic brethren, not, perhaps, as a nation, but as volunteers. If Hungary were to rise, their intervention would be certain; and Hungary would rise if American aid were known to be at hand. We can state positively that men, money, and arms are all ready—waiting and anxious for an opening. The whole nation, as is well

known (and the Government of the United States must soon follow the nation), is longing to obtain a footing in the arena of European politics; and Turkey, abandoned by her old allies, and left to the mercy of the great despot of the world, would offer too tempting, too honourable, and too just an occasion to be neglected. Nor could we say them nay; we have pronounced Russia to be wrong, and we could not interfere to prevent assistance being offered to the right. And we may be well assured, that if the Americans did come upon the stage, their proceedings would be conducted in a very different mode, and guided by a very different spirit from our scrupulous and timid policy—always hampered by traditional ideas, always bound down to official forms, always restrained by the fear of too signal a success, always confused, thwarted, and enfeebled by ulterior considerations. . . . Nor could their success be very doubtful. They are the best sailors in the world, and among the hardest soldiers; they could soon get together a navy powerful enough to destroy that of Russia; they have boundless wealth, and would not spare it were the national zeal once fairly roused; and, as we once before remarked, they present the most formidable combination of qualities which it is possible to encounter—the utmost hardihood of savage life with the most unbounded resources of civilisation and science. We ought to curb and baffle Russia, therefore, if only to anticipate America in doing so."

Great stress is laid upon the necessity for putting our whole heart into the struggle, and of not permitting dynastic or diplomatic influences to dishonour and enfeeble us. It is even intimated that, for this reason, the alliance of Austria should be regarded with disfavour, and our correspondence with her jealously watched, lest she should be secured against her own subjects—our natural and inevitable allies:—

"It has, indeed, been hinted, that we have held out something of this sort to Austria as the obvious prospect before her if she sided with Russia; and that she has replied by asking, 'Will you guarantee me against these things if I join with you?' We think it more than probable she has asked this question; what the answer of England has been, we can only conjecture. It can not have been in the affirmative. England cannot have said, 'In that case we will aid you to keep down your Hungarian and Italian subjects;' for no statesman, if he has stooped to such infamy, would have dared to do so in an official despatch, which, however secret, would have certainly leaked out, and which, if once known, would raise against him a howl of detestation such as no man would have the hardihood to encounter. She may, indeed, have said, 'In that we will observe a complete and honourable neutrality in the event of any internal strife in your dominions, as we hitherto have done; or, if you will give reasonably free institutions to Italy, and restore to Hungary her former constitution, and honestly abide by these, we will become your faithful and cordial allies, and discourage all insurrectionary and democratic movements.' More than this it is impossible she can have said. It is impossible that, for the sake of baffling one injustice she should have made herself a party to another—that in order to repel one tyrant and aggressor, she should have bargained to aid and sanction another and a worse."

This mention of the people whom Austria has despoiled of all but their indestructible renown and native genius, reminds us of a passage we had marked but forgotten. It occurs in an article on "National Music:—

"Living on the confines of the East and the West, this people belongs to the former by descent, and to the latter by civilisation. Geographical position has decided their destiny. In the midst, between two contrasting elements, they have been exposed to the attacks of both, and their history records little but one continual struggle for existence as a nation; at one time threatened by the brutal aggressions of the warlike races of the East, at another time endangered by the cunning, but more fatal intrusions of the German emperors. This continual warfare, instead of effacing the spirit of nationality in the Hungarian, only tended to render it all absorbing, and to concentrate in the one feeling—the love of country and race—the whole energy of an enthusiastic people. Nationality thus became uppermost in the life of the Hungarian, and it is now the influence ruling all his ideas, his feelings, his poetry, and his pursuits in arts and science."

"We find it also embodied in his music, breathing tales of war and sorrow. A thousand years of residence in Europe have not made the Hungarian forget the shrill war-cry of his ancestors, at whose sounds Byzantium has often trembled. It still lives in the wild accents of his music, whose every sound recalls to his mind a world of recollections, and speaks of victories and glories, but also of cruel sufferings and heartless injustice. Every note of its wild melancholy strain is a memento to him, and while it makes him sad, inspires him with hope and enthusiasm, leading him with an equally irresistible charm to the dance or to the battle field."

The *Prospective Review* opens with a comparative exhibition of "Theories of Christian Salvation," of which the best that we can say is—and it is no small praise—that it is not perceptibly unfair nor acrimonious. The same, and more, may be said of the paper on "Religious Services and Symbols," which not inappropriately follows another quarrying from the exhaustless *Stones of Venice*. The subject of "Juvenile Delinquency" is followed up from a recent number with well-timed earnestness.

The *Scottish Review* (which properly belongs to last month's magazines, but did not arrive in time for notice with them) has hit upon a capital topic, and put it into cunning hands—"Shakspeare's Sots." The immense capability of the Falstaffs, Stephanos, and Cassios, for the purposes of temperance advocacy, as well as of literary treatment, is obvious at a glance. We have to thank the writer that he has not overlaid his subject with untenable theories of Shakspearean intentions, or diffuse exhortations to take the pledge; but has opened up a rich vein of dramatic art and social influence. In a paper on "Chloroform"—the use of which in all cases of painful operation, and in parturition, is warmly commended—we have this gloomy catalogue of mistakes of the well intentioned:—

"The establishment of the Royal Society was opposed



because it was asserted that "experimental philosophy was subversive of the Christian faith; and the readers of D'Israeli will remember the telescope and microscope were stigmatised as 'atheistical inventions which perverted our organ of sight, and made everything appear in a false light.' What ridicule and incredulity, what persevering opposition greeted Jenner when he commenced the practice of vaccination! So late as 1806, the Anti-Vaccination Society denounced the discovery as 'the cruel despotic tyranny of forcing cow-pox misery on the innocent babes of the poor—a gross violation of religion, morality, law and humanity.' Learned men gravely printed statements that vaccinated children became 'ox-faced,' that abscesses broke out to 'indicate sprouting horns,' that the countenance was gradually 'transmuted into the visage of a cow, the voice into the bellowing of bulls,'—that the character underwent 'strange mutations from quadruped sympathy.' The influence of religion was called in to strengthen the prejudices of ignorance, and the operation was denounced from the pulpit as 'diabolical,' as a 'tempting of God's providence, and therefore a heinous crime,' as 'an invention of Satan,' a daring and profane violation of our holy religion; a 'wresting out of the hands of the Almighty the divine dispensation of providence, and its abettors were charged with sorcery and atheism. When fanners were first introduced to assist in winnowing corn from the chaff by producing artificial currents of air, it was argued that 'winds were raised by God alone, and it was irreligious in man to attempt to raise wind for himself and by efforts of his own.' One Scottish clergyman actually refused the holy communion to those of his parishioners who thus irreverently raised the 'Devil's wind.' Few of the readers of 'Old Mortality' will forget honest Mause Headrigg's indignation when it was proposed that her son Cuddie should work in the barn with a new-fangled machine for digging the corn from the chaff, thus impiously thwarting the will of Divine Providence, by raising wind for your leddyship's ain particular use by human art, instead of soliciting it by prayer, or waiting patiently for whatever dispensation of wind Providence was pleased to send upon the sheeling hill.' A route has just been successfully opened by Panama between the Atlantic and Pacific. In 1588 a priest named Acosta wrote respecting a proposal then made for this very undertaking, that it was his opinion that 'human power should not be allowed to cut through the strong and impenetrable bounds which God has put between the two oceans, of mountains and iron rocks, which can stand the fury of the raging seas. And, if it were possible, it would appear to me very just, that we should fear the vengeance of Heaven, for attempting to improve that which the Creator in his Almighty will and providence has ordained from the creation of the world.' When forks were first introduced into England, some preachers denounced their use 'as an insult on Providence, not to touch our meat with our fingers.' Many worthy people had great scruples about the emancipation of the negroes, because they were the descendants of Ham, on whom the curse of perpetual slavery had been pronounced. Many others plead against the measure for the emancipation of the Jews, that the bill is a direct attempt to contravert the will and word of God, and to revoke his sentence upon the chosen but rebellious people. A very little consideration, however, might serve to convince these people that the idea of man reverting the decrees of the Creator—of opposing his efforts to the designs of Omnipotence—of thwarting the will and purpose of Almighty Providence by human measures, is the very height of presumption."

In the *Art-Journal* there is this month one of an additional series of engravings—an exquisite reproduction of Harding's "Val St. Nicola;" a paper by Mr. Apsley Pellatt, on the Potter's Art; and the resumption of a minute and profusely illustrated history of heraldry. "Examples of German Artists," and illustrations of "The Great Masters," are also continued.—In a very good number of *Blackwood* is an article on the history of the Turks, in the course of which we are reminded that they and their implacable antagonists, are the only existing peoples mentioned in Scripture—the former, by the name of their remotest progenitor, Togarmah; the latter by the very name "Russians" (Ezekiel, xxxviii. 2, 3).—The *Eclectic* claims notice for a vindication of the contemporary pulpit from an attack capriciously introduced into a *Times* leader; and the same general subject is discoursed of in the *Monthly Christian Spectator*, in the pleasant form of "A Modern Tale, Part I."—A "Sketch of the Life and Character of the late Dr. Wardlaw," will be found in the *Evangelical Magazine*.—*Tait* has two stories of rather horrible interest—defends somewhat too confidently, we think, Mr. Doubleday's theory of population,—and opens, in very promising style, the grand subject of the (poetic) "Mythology of the World to Come."—In *Hogg's Instructor*, the new poem of "Balder," and the writings of Charles Kingsley, are the subjects of such criticism as we like to read—analytical, conscientious, and genial.

Of the bundle of novelties again before us, the largest and strangest is *Cassell's Illustrated Family Paper*—the very leviathan of the penny press. In this monthly part, there are forty folio pages, and on every other page one or more woodcuts—Percy St. John and William Howitt are among its contributors—and all the personages, scenes, and classes of the War in the East, are subjects of illustration by the graver and the pen; beside such stock subjects as the chess-board, the work-table, and ladies' dresses.—*Eginton's Literary Railway Miscellany*, is the cumbersome title of a new monthly, which, if neither very cheap nor very good, in comparison with much that may be found on the railway book-stalls, may yet serve both to divert and inform the traveller.—The *Northern Tribune* is a "periodical for the people," whose only title to support is not its cheapness, and whose usefulness need not be restricted to the banks of the Tyne. "Thorough" in politics and neutral in religion, it enjoins self-

education as the indispensable accompaniment of political enlargement, and includes in the idea of self-education the primary duty of moral culture. Its contributors include Dr. F. R. Lees, Mr. W. J. Linton, Thomas Cooper, and the Rev. J. Barnett.—The first monthly part of *Religious Information for the People* we did not receive in time to give it such perusal as its "contents" claim.

Mrs. Bunbury, the authoress of "Florence Sackville," contributes a weekly instalment of a new novel to the *Family Friend*.—The *Home Companion* includes in the present monthly part, Sketches of Charles Lamb's house at Islington, and of Cowley's at Chertsey: among its graver articles on current topics, is one ("The Dead Reckoning,") combining into a really appalling picture, statistics of the yearly loss of British shipping.—The *Leisure Hour* commenced with the year a story of Australian Life, and carries its readers as well to China, the Arctic Seas, and other parts of special present interest.—*Orr's Circle of the Sciences* comprises, in the first monthly part, besides the introductory treatise, opening papers on Physiology, Mathematics, and the Properties of Matter. It is a great merit, that in all these a knowledge of even simplest rudiments is not taken for granted; and we observe a more careful abstinence from, or explanation of, technical terms in the later than in the earlier numbers.—The second number of the *Library of Biblical Literature* appears in a wrapper—a substantial acknowledgement of gratifying success; the topic is, Israel and the Pyramids—and it is treated at once with fulness and simplicity, a great deal of knowledge, and an unencumbered style.—The last number of the *Universal Library* contains the entertaining history of Peter Wilkins.—*Chambers's Journal* wears now a gay cover, is decidedly enlivened in its general contents, and is really valuable for its periodical retrospect of scientific, literary, and artistic progress.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

- History of Xerxes the Great. N. Cooke.  
Johnson's Lives of the Poets. N. Cooke.  
Report of the Committee of Deputies Modern Husbandry. N. Cooke.  
The Repentance of Nineveh. R. B. Blackader.  
The Charities of London. Sampson, Lowe, and Son.  
Selection from the Poetry. J. Chapman.  
Every Christian a Missionary. N. Bowach.  
Aslet's Decimal Coinage.  
The Ballad of Babe Christobel. D. Bogue.  
Selections, Grave and Gay. J. Hogg.  
Poems by Matthew Arnold. Longman and Co.  
The Tent and the Altar. A. Hall and Co.  
The Life and Letters of Christopher Anderson. W. P. Kennedy.  
Importance of the Temperance Enterprise. W. Tweedie.  
An Account of the present deplorable state of the Ecclesiastical Courts of Record. H. Adams.  
Musical Letters from Abroad. Mason, Brothers.  
Hungary, Past and Present. A. and C. Black.  
Female Scripture Characters. Hamilton, Adams and Co.  
Practical Sermons. T. and T. Clark.  
France before the Revolution. Vol. I. II. T. Constable and Co.  
Indications on Instinct. Longman and Co.

## Cleanings.

Mr. Cuninghame has invented a contrivance whereby topsails are reefed and unreefed from the deck in a few minutes without the necessity of sending a man aloft.

An American dealer in ready-made linen advertises his shirts and chemisettes under the delicate appellation of "male and female envelopes."

The good citizens of Southampton have been worse off for coal than their London brethren. Many we are told could not roast their joints of meat, and people paid 2s. 6d. a hundred for the scrapings of the coal yards and cellars.

The *Albany* (United States) *Express* states that a Baptist minister finding one Sunday afternoon, that some 30, of his congregation were asleep, when he had preached about half his sermon, said he should "postpone the delivery of the balance of it" until they woke up. It seems that five minutes silent pause, brought them all into a state to receive "the balance," and the preacher then went on.

The *New Orleans Picayune*, speaking of a "model subscriber" to that paper, says: "We have on our subscription list the name of one gentleman, who has taken the *Weekly Picayune* ever since 1839, and has not once during that period, that we remember, found fault with the appearance or contents of the paper, or complained of being irregularly served by the mails. He paid his first years subscription in advance—and has not paid anything since."

"What various opinions and conclusions you must hear from the university pulpit," said a country parson to a Cambridge don, the other day. "Yes!" was the reply, "I have listened to endless controversy from it in my time; but, thank heaven, I still remain a Christian in spite of it all."—*Liverpool Albion*.

Dr. Veron in his amusing memoirs mentions a phlegmatic Briton who, contenting himself with a succinct "Good bye" to our Doctor before making a voyage round the world, satisfied himself with an equally phlegmatic "How do you do?" when, on coming back, he found Dr. Veron in his old place at the same table in the *Café Véro*, where the two had

parted.—The *Athenaeum* supposes the Doctor to be unacquainted with that sharper version of the same tale, which tells how a noble father, sitting at his solitary tea table, received his son, when the latter arrived unexpectedly after twenty-five years absence in India. "Ah!" said he, "are you there my boy? Black or Green?"

The *Edinburgh Post* is not very complimentary to his countrymen:—"It is," says our contemporary, "notoriously the fact that the lower classes in Scotland, we might say the great body of the population, are the most drunken brutes in the known world."

There is among Europeans generally, says Rowland in his essay on the hair, a strong dislike to red hair; but in Spain red hair is admired almost to adoration, and there is a story told of one of our naval commanders, who luxuriated in fiery locks, being idolised and caressed in consequence by the Spanish women, and looked upon as a perfect Adonis.

"A decent country woman," said an English divine, "came to me one market-day, and begged to speak with me. She told me with an air of secrecy that her husband behaved unkindly to her, and that knowing me to be a wise man, I could tell her what would cure him. 'The remedy is simple,' said I: 'always treat your husband with a smile.' The woman thanked me, dropped a courtesy, and went away. A few months after she came again, bringing a couple of fine fowls. She told me with great satisfaction that I had cured her husband; and she begged my acceptance of the fowls in return. This was at once the victory of love and the reward of patience."

A Californian paper tells a story of a showman who delighted an "appreciating public" with a view of the Mammoth Cave. It was his custom, as each scene was exhibited, to explain it. When the great cave came to view, he stepped forward and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, this is a great phenomena:—indeed, the greatest of the world. The learned of all nations have visited it; but while none could agree as to the cause which had produced it, they all came to this grand conclusion, that it was one of the most tremendous holes in the ground they had ever seen."

An American paper informs us "Why Brother Dickson left the Church." Mr. Dickson, a coloured barber in one of our New England towns, was shaving one of his customers, a respectable citizen, one morning, when a conversation arose between them respecting Mr. Dickson's former connection with a coloured church in that place. "I believe you are connected with the church in Elm-street, Mr. Dickson?" said the customer. "No, sah! not at all."—"What, are you not a member of the African church?"—"Not this year, sah."—"Why did you leave their communion, Mr. Dixon, if I may be permitted to ask?"—"Why, I tell you, sah," said Mr. Dixon, strapping a concave razor on the palm of his hand, "it was just like dis. I joined dat church in good faif. I gib ten dollars towards de stated preachin' of de Gospill de fust year, and de church people all call me Brudder Dickson. The second year my business not good, and I only gib five dollars. Dat year de church people call me *Mister Dickson*! De raze' hurt you, sah?"—"No! razor goes tolerably well."—"Well, sah! de tird year I feel very poor—sickness in my family—and I didn't give nuffin' for preachin'." Well, sah! arter dat, dey call me *ole Nigger Dickson*; an' I LEFF 'EM!"

## BIRTHS.

- January 17th, the wife of the Rev. J. Young, Shepton Mallet, of a daughter.  
February 3rd, in Tavistock-square, the wife of EDWARD SOLLY, Esq., F.R.S., of a daughter.  
February 4th, at Moss Grove, Manchester, the wife of the Rev. FRANCIS TUCKER, of a son.

## MARRIAGES.

- January 28th, at Islington Chapel, by the Rev. John Blackburn, THOMAS PRITCHARD, Esq., of H. M. Inland Revenue, Penzance, Cornwall, to ELIZABETH, third daughter of WILLIAM BRASS, Esq., Islington.  
January 30th, at the Independent Chapel, Atherstone, by the Rev. R. Massie, Mr. JOSEPH DAY to Miss MARY BLOUNT, both of Baddesley, Enzor, Warwickshire.  
January 30th, at York-street Chapel, Manchester, by the Rev. J. Chenery, Mr. JOHN FURELL to ANNE, eldest daughter of the Rev. J. E. GILES, of Sheffield.  
January 31st, at the Parish Church, Hampstead, by the Rev. W. M. Wray, brother of the bride, RICHARD QUAIN, of Harley-street, Cavendish-square, Esq., M.D., to ISABELLA AGNES, only daughter of the late GEORGE WRAY, of Cleasby, in the county of York, Captain E. I. C.'s Bengal service.  
February 2nd, at the old Independent Chapel, Chichester, by the Rev. J. F. Alexander, Mr. JOHN OSBORN to Miss MARIA HOARE.  
February 2nd, at the Baptist Chapel, Wokingham, by the Rev. C. H. Harcourt, Mr. ISAAC WATTS, of Greenwich, eldest son of the late Rev. Isaac Watts, of Falmouth, to ASPATIA BOLINA CLYMENE, youngest daughter of the late RICHARD CHAMBERS, Esq., of Wokingham.  
February 5th, at the Baptist Chapel, Bishops Stortford, by the Rev. B. Hodgkins, Mr. RICHARD HALLS, tailor, to Miss ELLEN MEAD, both of Bishops Stortford.

## DEATHS.

- October 10th, 1853, at Geelong, Port Phillip, Australia, after giving birth to a son on the 3rd (her 19th child), RUTH LOUISE, the beloved wife of Mr. EBENEZER DAVIES, the youngest daughter of the late Mr. MARK BARTLETT, of Bracknell, Berks.  
December 6th, 1853, in the 77th year of her age, ANN, the wife of Mr. THOMAS COPELAND, of Abingdon, Berks.  
December 20th, at Simon's Town, Cape of Good Hope, Sir HENRY MILES ELLIOT, K. C. B., Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, third son of the late JOHN ELLIOT, Esq., of Pimlico-lodge, Westminster, aged 45.  
January 3rd, after two months distressing illness, JANE BEALBY, in her 47th year.  
January 25th, at King Edward's-road, Hackney, WILLIAM HENRY, in the 11th year of his age; and on the 29th, EDWARD, in the 8th year of his age, sons of WILLIAM J. JORDAN, of Brabant-court, City.  
January 29th, Miss ANN RUST, of Albion-road East, Stoke Newington, in her 51st year.  
January 31st, at Richmond, Surrey, the Rev. JAMES M. FISHER, late of the Scotch Church, Swallow-street, Piccadilly.  
January 31st, at Staines, Mr. CONSTANTINE JOHN YOUNG, aged 80 years; who in an earlier part of his life was for many years pastor of the Baptist Church, Datchet, Bucks.  
January 31st, at his residence, the Grove, Bridgenorth, WILLIAM GRIFFITH, Esq., aged 82 years.  
February 2nd, RICHARD HARRIS, Esq., of the Crescent, Leicester, a magistrate and late M. P. for the borough, aged 76.  
February 4th, ANN, the wife of Mr. JOHN BUTLER, of Childer-ditch Hall, near Brentwood, Essex, aged 50.  
February 4th, at his residence, 1, Upper Hyde-park-street, JAMES CUNLIFFE, Esq., of 24, Lombard-street, aged 56.



## Money Market &amp; Commercial Intelligence.

CITY, Tuesday Evening.

The positive statements that Austria and Prussia have definitively rejected the proposals of Russia on the Eastern question, and will adhere to the Western Powers, led on Saturday to extensive purchases, to cover speculative sales previously effected, and caused a rise in Consols to the extent of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{4}$ . On Monday, a further advance of  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  was not maintained, but prices left off about  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. below that of Saturday. At Vienna, the rapid downward movement of prices, and the rise in exchange, continue, and seem to argue little confidence on the part of the capitalists of that city, the seat of the Conference. The funds closed weaker last night, Consols leaving off at  $92\frac{1}{2}$  for money and time; but the warlike character of the intelligence furnished by Ministers in Parliament last night, caused a fall of nearly one per cent. this morning. There was a partial rally, but it was not maintained. The Lombard-street discount houses experienced an active demand for accommodation, and money seems to have been more fully employed. The large mass of bills falling due on Saturday (the 4th) appear to have been remarkably well met.

Russian Stocks have declined 4 per cent., the 5 per Cent. Bonds having been dealt in at  $103\frac{1}{2}$ , and the 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  ditto at 90. The other bargains comprise Mexican, from 25 to  $24\frac{1}{2}$ ; Portuguese 5 per Cents., 40; Spanish Deferred, 19 to  $19\frac{1}{2}$ ; Swedish 4 per Cents., 89; Dutch 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  per Cents., 61; and 4 per Cents.,  $91\frac{1}{2}$  to  $91\frac{1}{4}$ .

The Railway Share Market had decidedly improved. The higher dividends already announced have led to purchases by the public, and stock being previously scarce, even a limited demand is calculated to exercise an immediately favourable influence on prices. York, Newcastle and Berwick stock rose about 3 per cent., on the announcement of a 4 per cent. dividend. The rise was also chiefly observable in London and North Western, Lancashire and Yorkshire, York and North Midland, and Midland stocks, but the improvement was general. The share market is heavy, with a preponderance of sales. Caledonians have been done at  $52\frac{1}{2}$  to 53. Great Northern at 86. Great Western,  $82\frac{1}{2}$  to  $83\frac{1}{2}$ . Lancashire and Yorkshire,  $64\frac{1}{2}$  to  $65\frac{1}{2}$ . North Westerns, 103 to  $103\frac{1}{2}$ . Midland,  $62\frac{1}{2}$  to 63. Brightons,  $96\frac{1}{2}$ . South Easterns,  $61\frac{1}{2}$ . Berwicks, 67 to 68. York and North Midland,  $47\frac{1}{2}$  to 48. French shares were about  $\frac{1}{2}$  lower to-day.

The reports of the trade of the manufacturing towns during the past week are satisfactory. At Manchester there has been no alteration, and, although great caution is observed, the transactions are sufficiently numerous to prevent depression. The Birmingham advices still describe an increasing pressure of orders for almost every description of manufactured iron, while there is likewise great activity in the copper, brass, and tin-plate trades. The quantity of home and foreign orders for electro-plated goods is remarkable, and continues to show that this method of economizing silver will, in the end, greatly augment the consumption and value of that metal. The general commissions received from the United States and Canada are comparatively larger than ever, and a further stimulus to the prevailing activity has been given by contracts from the home Government for an immediate supply of military stores, accoutrements, &c. At Nottingham the lace trade has been dull, but there are favourable prospects of a large American demand, while in hosiery there has been a sustained improvement, the character of the market being of a most healthy description. In the woollen districts there has been diminished animation, but employment is general and confidence uninterrupted. In the Irish linen markets there has been an active business at firm prices. The extent of the general transactions of the kingdom was manifested in London by the amount of bills which fell due on Saturday, the 4th, having been almost unprecedented.

The departures from the port of London for the Australian colonies during the past week show a considerable increase. They have comprised altogether 15 vessels—seven to Port Phillip, with an aggregate burden of 2,838 tons; five to Sydney, with an aggregate burden of 3,138 tons; two to Hobart Town, with an aggregate burden of 949 tons; and one to Launceston, of 578 tons. Their total capacity was, consequently, 7,503 tons. The rates of freight show a tendency to decline.

In the general business of the port of London during the past week there has not been much activity. The number of vessels reported inward was 95, being 12 less than in the previous week. Of grain there were reported 11,864 quarters, including 10,020 quarters of wheat; of flour, 10,245 barrels and 1,090 sacks; of tea, 49,903 packages; and of sugar, 1,190 hhds., 69 casks, 8,794 cases, and 11,385 bags. The number of

ships entered outwards was 102, being an increase of 19 over the previous week. Of these 22 were in ballast, and 15, as above stated, for the Australian colonies.

The specie arrivals of the week have amounted to nearly £400,000, of which about one-half was silver. The exports are estimated at nearly the same sum. The demand for gold for the continent continues.

The Balance-sheet for the year ending Jan. 5, 1854, just published, gives us a more complete account of the revenue and expenditure of 1853 than the quarterly revenue tables, published on the 6th ult., from which Ireland is always omitted. It is extremely satisfactory to learn, that the actual receipts into the Exchequer not only surpass those of last year, but surpass the calculations of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, made when the prosperity of 1853 was full-blown, and its rich fruits could be anticipated. The total revenue of 1852 was £58,210,071; the revenue for 1853 was estimated by the Chancellor, on April 18, at £52,990,000; its actual produce was £54,430,844. Thus the revenue of 1853 exceeded the revenue of 1852 by £1,220,273, and exceeded the calculations of the Chancellor by £1,440,000. The increase in the principal branches of the revenue will be seen by the following comparison:—

	1852.	1853.	Excess 1853.
Customs	£20,515,541	£20,902,734	£387,193
Excise	15,835,072	15,337,724	502,652
Stamps	6,761,634	6,975,416	213,872
Income-tax	5,509,637	5,688,171	78,634

## The Gazette.

Friday, February 3rd, 1854.

## BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Saturday, the 28th day of January, 1854.

## ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes issued	29,517,025	Government Debt	11,015,100
		Other Securities	2,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	15,517,025
		Silver Bullion	
	£29,517,025		£29,517,025

## BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	
Reserve	2,339,394	Dead Weight Annuity	13,923,716
Public Deposits	2,515,384	Other Securities	7,798,622
Other Deposits	13,486,234	Notes	7,168,640
Seven Day and other Bills	1,202,155	Gold and Silver Coin	106,189
	£25,096,167		£25,096,167

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

\* Including Exchequer, Savings-Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Account.  
This "Gazette" contains a notice that the following place has been duly registered for the solemnization of marriages therein:—  
St. Mary's Catholic Church, Bacup, Lancashire.

## BANKRUPTS.

DAVIS, T., & GARRETT, W. W. G., Rathbone-place, Oxford-street, export oilmen, Feb. 11, March 29: solicitor, Mr. F. Wheelock, Chancery-lane.

PAUL, J. Sen., Athol-place, Southsea, and St. George's-place, Portsea, brewer, Feb. 17, March 17: solicitor, Mr. F. Wigan, Furnival's Inn.

LANBURN, G., Taplow, Berks, timber-merchant, Feb. 15, March 14: solicitor, Mr. Linklater, Sho-lane.

ALLEN, H., Bristol, chemist and druggist, Feb. 14, March 14: solicitor, R. Miller, Bristol.

OSBORNE, J., Kidderminster, tailor & draper, Feb. 15, March 15: solicitors, Messrs. Boycott & Tudor, Kidderminster.

LUCAS, D. W., and DODS, L., Arthur-street West, hemp & flax merchants, Feb. 14, March 20: solicitors, Messrs. Parnell & Williams, New Broad-street.

HONEY, T., Launceston, Cornwall, grocer, Feb. 14, March 9: solicitors, Messrs. Bishop & Pitts, Exeter.

SHARP, H., Chipping-hill Mill, Witham, Essex, miller, Feb. 14, March 30: solicitors, Messrs. Banks & Stevens, Witham.

NOBBURY, T., & BLINDLOW, R., Manchester, milk manufacturers, Feb. 30, March 27: solicitors, Messrs. Sale, Manchester.

FRANCIS, J., Manchester, baker, Feb. 14, March 7: solicitor, Mr. D. Boote, Manchester.

## DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS.

J. Heath, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, chemist and druggist; first dividend of 6s. 1d., Feb. 6, and any subsequent Monday between 11 and 3, at Carman's, Aldermanbury—D. Keith, and T. Shoorbridge, Wood-street, Cheapside, warehousemen; 3rd dividend of 2d., Feb. 6, and three following Thursdays, at Stanfield's, Basinghall-street—F. English, Manchester, power loom cloth manufacturer; first dividend of 10s. 6d., on any subsequent Tuesday, at Fraser's, Manchester.

## SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

J. HAMILTON, Church-street, Hamilton, portlanter.

R. HUTCHESON, Glasgow, boot and shoe maker.

T. JENKINS, Arbroath, machine maker.

J. BUCHAN, Glasgow, spirit dealer.

Tuesday, February 7th, 1854.

## BANKRUPTS.

BURTON, T. J., GABE, B. J., and CAUCKLEY, F. R., Wigmore-street, Cavendish-square, church furnishees, to liquidate Feb. 16 at 12, and March 23 at 12: solicitor, Mr. G. C. Smith.

CHOPIN, J., Threadneedle-street, City, mine share broker, Feb. 16 at 11, and March 23 at 1: solicitor, Wyatt, Venable-buildings.

GRAND, W., Lower Tottenham, builder, Feb. 21, and March 21, at 12: solicitors, Wright and Bonner, London-street, Fenchurch-street.

BALDING, E., Speenhamland, Berkshire, builder, Feb. 17 and March 24: solicitors, Richards and Walker, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

TICKELL, H. R., Mark-lane, City, and Boydon, Essex, brewer, Feb. 22 at 2, and March 21 at 12: solicitors, Ashurst and Son, Old Jewry.

HOMES, J. A., High-street, Southwark, woollen draper, Feb. 15 at half-past 2, and March 21 at 12: solicitors, Lawrance and Co., Old Jewry-chambers.

AMBLING, G. S., Frederick-street, Hampstead-road, common brewer, Feb. 14 at half-past 3: and March 21, at 1: solicitors Piercy and Hawks, Three Crown-square, Southwark.

TURNER, T., Mosbrough, Derbyshire, grocer, Feb. 18 and March 25, at 12: solicitor, Fernell, Sheffield.

## SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

C. CAMPBELL, Campbelltown, near Fort George, draper.

C. H. FAWCETT, Dingwall, merchant.

## DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS.

Robert Kipling and William Atkinson, Wood-street, Cheapside, warehousemen; third dividend of 3s. 3d., and 8s. 9d., and final dividend of 30s., Feb. 11, and three subsequent Saturdays, at Mr. Edwards', Safford-court—William Pike, Reading, Berkshire, tobaccoist; first dividend of 3s. 6d., Feb. 11, and three subsequent Saturdays, at Mr. Edwards', Safford-court—Richard Jewson, Great Winchester-street, City, merchants; second dividend of 10s., any Wednesday, at Mr. Whitmore's, Basinghall-street—William Rainford, Liverpool, cabinet maker; second dividend of 2d., and first dividend of 12s., Feb. 22, and any subsequent Wednesday, at Mr. Morgan's, Liverpool—Pryde and Jones, Liverpool, sail makers; third dividend of 5d., and first and second dividends of 1s. 9d., and 6d., Feb. 22, and any subsequent Wednesday, at Mr. Morgan's, Liverpool—Bell and Campbell, Liverpool, merchants; first dividend of 3d., Feb. 22, and any subsequent Wednesday, at Mr. Morgan's, Liverpool—William Stock, Ashton-in-Mackerfield, Lancashire, coal proprietor; dividend of 30s., Feb. 22, and any subsequent Wednesday, at Mr. Morgan's, Liverpool—John Stock, Ashton-in-Mackerfield, Lancashire, coal proprietor; first dividend of 4s. 8d., Feb. 22, and any subsequent Wednesday, at Mr. Morgan's, Liverpool.

## Markets.

MARK-LANE, MONDAY, February 6, 1854.

Although there was very little English Wheat offering this morning, the condition of most of the samples was so much affected by the weather, that sales were difficult even at 1s. to 2s. per qr. under last Monday's prices. For Foreign Wheat there was a limited Country demand, at about the same reduction. Flour went off slowly 1s. to 2s. per barrel and sack cheaper. Barley, Beans, and Pease dull, and 1s. to 2s. lower. The supply of Oats by sea was short, but liberal by railway, the whole quantity however was moderate, the Trade nevertheless was inactive, and prices 6d. to 1s. per quarter lower. Linseed Cakes firm. In Cloverseeds there was rather more doing, but we cannot quote any improvement in price. The Current prices are under.

DOMESTIC.		FOREIGN.	
	s. d.		s. d.
Wheat—		Dantzic	84 to 90
Essex and Kent, Red 70 to 85		Konigsberg, Red	80 to 86
Ditto White	72 88	Pomeranian, Red	84 to 86
Lincol., Norfolk, &c.		Rostock	84 to 88
Yorkshire Red	74 84	Danish & Holstein	76 to 80
Northumb. & Scotch	74 84	East Friesland	74 to 78
Rye	48 52	Peteraburg	72 to 76
Barley malting (new)	40 42	Riga and Archangel	56 to 60
Distilling	36 38	Polish Odessa	74 to 78
Malt (pale)	42 72	Marianopol	73 to 78
Beans, Masagan	40 42	Taganrog	65 to 70
Ticks	42 56	Egyptian	62 to 66
Harrow	42 56	American (U.S.)	80 to 90
Pigeon	54 60	Barley Pomeranian	35 to 38
Peas, White	54 56	Konigsberg	36 to 38
Grey	44 46	Danish	35 to 42
Maple	48 50	East Friesland	35 to 36
Boilers	60 62	Egyptian	50 to 52
Thres (English)	55 60		
Foreign	55 58		
Oats (English feed)	26 31		
Flour, town made, per			
Sack, of 280 lbs.	60 72		
Linseed, English	58 60		
Raffia	56 58		
Black Sea	58 60		
Hempseed	36 38		
Canaryseed	52 56		
Cloverseed per cwt. of			
112 lbs. English	58 70		
German	52 80		
French	52 60		
American	80 54		
Linseed Cakes	£13 10 to £14		
Rape Cake 26 to 25 10 per ton			
Rapeseed 236 to 230 per last			

## BUTCHERS' MEAT, SMITHFIELD, MONDAY, February 6.

The supply of home-fed Beasts on sale was rather limited; nevertheless, their quality was comparatively prime. The attendance of both town and country buyers were large; and the Beef trade ruled active, at an advance in the prices of Monday last of 3d. per 8lbs., and a good clearance was effected. The primest Scotch muttons 4s. 10d. per 8lbs. Although the numbers of Sheep were rather limited, the demand for that description of stock—especially for inferior breeds—was far from active. However, the Mutton trade may be considered steady, at fully last Monday's currency. The primest old Downes were scarce, and worth 5s. 2d. per 8lbs. About 500 shearlings were in the market. With foreign Calves we were well supplied; but the numbers of English were limited. The demand was heavy, and prices were from 6d. to 8d. per 8lbs. lower than on this day a fortnight. The top figure was 5s. 4d. per 8lbs. Pigs were in fair average supply, and sluggish request, on former terms.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal.)

	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.
Coarse and inferior	3 6 3 8	Prime coarse wool-	4 6 4 8
Beasts	3 10 4 0	led Sheep	3 8 4 2
Second quality do.	4 2 4 6	Prime South Down	4 10 5 2
Prime large Oxen	4 8 4 10	Sheep	4 10 5 2
Prime Scots, &c.	3 2 3 6	Large coarse Calves	4 2 4 8
Coarse and inferior	3 2 3 6	Prime small do.	4 10 5 4
Sheep	3 2 3 6	Large Hogs	3 0 4 2
Second quality do.	3 8 4 4	Neat small Porkers	4 4 4 10
Suckling Calves, 23s. to 29s., and quarter-old store Pigs, 22s. to 27s. each.			

## NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, February 6.—The arrivals of country-killed meat have been liberal during the week.

To-day the supply of most kinds was rather extensive, and a steady business was transacted.

Per 8lbs. by the carcass.

	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.
Inferior Beef	2 10 3 2	Inferior Mutton	3 0 3 6
Middling do.	3 4 3 6	Middling do.	3 8 4 2
Prime large do.	3 8 3 10	Prime do.	4 4 4 8
Do. small do.	4 0 4 2	Veal	4 0 5 4
Large Pork	3 4 4 8	Small Pork	4 4 5 0

BREAD. The prices of Wheat Bread in the Metropolis are from 11d. to 11½d.; and Household do., 9d. to 10½d. per 4lbs. loaf.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday, February 6.—The sales of Irish Butter last week were merely on a retail scale. Foreign offered more attraction, and with variety of kinds at from 5s. to 8s., met free and liberal buyers. The finer sorts were very little sought after; but being in short supply, advance 2s. to 4s. Bacon was dull and drooping, and the dealing accordingly trifling at a decline of 1s. to 2s. In Hams and Lard no new feature.

PRICES OF BUTTER, CHEESE, HAMS, &amp;c.

	s. s.		s. s.
Friesland per cwt.	104 to 105	Cheshire (new)	64 to 80
Kiel	104 110	Cheddar	86 80
Dorset (new)	106 114	Double Gloucester	64 72
Carlton do.	98 102	Single do.	64 70
Waterford do.	98 104	York Hams (new)	76 86
Cork do.	92 98	Westmorland do.	70 80
Lincoln do.	96 104	Irish do.	68 78
Elgo do.	96 104	Wiltshire Bacon (green)	68 68
Fresh Butter per doz.	15 - 18	Waterford Bacon	62 6



## HIDE AND SKIN—SATURDAY, JANUARY 21.

Market Hides, 56 to 64 lbs	0 2½ to 0 3	0 per lb.
Ditto 64 to 72 lbs	0 2½ to 0 3	"
Ditto 72 to 80 lbs	0 3 to 0 3½	"
Ditto 80 to 88 lbs	0 3½ to 0 4	"
Ditto 88 to 96 lbs	0 4 to 0 4½	"
Ditto 96 to 104 lbs	0 4½ to 0 5	"
Horse Hides	2 0 to 2 6	"
Calf Skins, light	6 6 to 0 0	each,
Ditto full	8 0 to 10 0	"
Polled Sheep	7 0 to 8 6	"
Kents and Half-breds	5 3 to 6 3	"
Downs		"

POTATOES, BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, Feb. 6.—The arrivals of Potatoes up to these markets have been on the increase since our last report. The imports have amounted to 30 tons from Dublin, 70 from Belfast, 260 from Rotterdam, and 2 from Tralee. The demand is steady, as follows:—Kent and Essex Regents, 160s. to 180s.; Scotch do. 140s. to 160s.; do. cups, 120s. to 140s.; foreign, 120s. to 140s. per ton.

HOPS, Monday, February 6.—We are unable to report any improvement in the demand, which continues steady, but limited, at the subjoined currency:—New Sussex and Weald of Kent pockets, £8 to £10 10s.; New Middle Kents, £11 11s. to £13 13s.; choice and East Kents, £13 to £15 15s. Yearling Hops are very scarce, at from £8 8s. to £9.

TALLOW, London, Monday, February 6.—Our market has become heavy, and prices are quite 1s. per cwt. lower than on Monday last. To-day, P.Y.C. on the spot is quoted at 62s., and for delivery in March and April 62s. 6d. per cwt. Town Tallow, 62s. net cash. Rough Fat, 3s. 5½d.

## Particulars of Tallow.

	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.
Stock . . . . .	42,864	45,527	54,936	41,859	38,861
Price of Y.C. . . . .	37s. to 38s. 6d.	38s. 3d. to 39s. 6d.	39s. 6d. to 40s. 6d.	40s. 6d. to 41s. 6d.	41s. 6d. to 42s. 6d.
Delivery last week	1,978	2,433	2,355	2,129	1,981
Ditto from 1st June	69,353	72,457	77,905	72,911	73,911
Arrival last week	1,472	130	521	324	1,144
Ditto from 1st June	85,740	90,466	96,307	74,142	89,459
Prices of Town . . . . .	39s. 6d.	39s. 6d.	39s. 6d.	40s. 6d.	41s. 6d.

COVENT GARDEN, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6.—In consequence of the continuance of mild weather, Vegetables are well supplied, and Fruit is also sufficient for the demand. Late Grapes continue good. Pears consist of Glout Morceau, Beurre d'Hiver, Monsieur le Cure, Winter Crassane, Easter Beurre, and Ne Plus Meuris. Among Dessert Apples are good samples of Ribston Pippin, Old Nonpareil, and Newtown Pippin. Chestnuts are plentiful. Potatoes have altered but little since our last report. Asparagus is coming in at from 8s. to 10s. per hundred, and Sea-kale at from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per punnet. Carrots and Turnips are cheaper. Mushrooms are scarce. Cut flowers consist of Camellias, Azaleas, Cyclamens, Heaths, Hyacinths, Tulips, and Roses.

METALS, Saturday, February 6.—The demand for tin is less active, and sellers have come forward on rather easier terms. Spelter is 10s. to 10s. 6d. per ton dearer; on the spot, the quotations are £24 to £24 5s.; and for spring delivery, £24 10s. to £24 15s. per ton. No change in lead or steel. Scotch pig iron has changed hands at from 74s. to 76s. Manufactured parcels are tolerably firm.

## HAY, SMITHFIELD, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6.

At per load of 36 trusses.

Hay. £3 15s. 6d. to £5 5s. 6d. | Clover. £4 10s. 6d. to £6 0s. 6d. | Straw. £1 12s. 6d. to £2 2s. 6d.

COALS, Monday February 6.—(Prices of coals per ton at the close of the market). Abney Hartley, 20s.—Buddle's West Hartley, 22s.—Carr's Hartley, 22s.—Cookson's Hartley, 21s. 6d.—Cragwood Hartley, 21s.—Hollywell, 26s.—Howard's West Hartley, 22s.—Old Adairs, 21s.—Ravensworth West Hartley, 22s.—Redhough Main, 21s.—Shaftoe's Hartley, 19s. 6d.—Walker Primrose, 21s.—West Hartley, 22s. 6d.—Wylam, 24s. 6d.—Wallsend, 26s.—Gosforth, 28s.—Killingworth East, 22s. 6d.—Medonsley, 22s. 6d.—Northumberland East, 22s. 6d.—Bradyall, 29s. 6d.—Hetton, 30s.—Haswell, 30s.—Lambton, 29s. 6d.—Plummer, 29s.—Richmond, 28s. 6d.—Russell's Hetton, 29s. 6d.—Heugh Hall, 28s. 6d.—Kelloc, 30s.—Cleveland Tees, 22s.—Tees Hetton, 23s. 6d.—Derwentwater West Hartley, 22s.—Grey's West Hartley, 21s. 6d.—Ships at market, 537.—Sold, 124.—Unsold, 413.

COTTON, LIVERPOOL, February 6.—The market closed with a firm and steady appearance, and with less choice of cotton at 5½ to 6d. per lb. Sales 9,000 to 10,000 bales. 3,000 on speculation.

WOOL, CITY, Monday.—The market is quiet, in anticipation of the public sales, which commence on Thursday. The imports of wool into London last week were 2,404 bales, of which 1,077 were from Peru, 478 from Port Philip, 611 from Van Diemen's Land, and the rest from Buenos Ayres, &c. The market for British wool is exceedingly inactive, owing to the near approach of the public sales of colonial wool. As those sales are expected to go off steadily, holders are firm in their demands, and prices are supported.

## Advertisements.

**ARNOLD'S CLOCK MANUFACTORY**  
—OFFICE, HALL, SHOP, and PUBLIC DIALS, THREE GUINEAS; to Strike, Half-a-Guinea extra. Only best Work. Constantly renewed stock of elegant Drawing-room Clocks, under glass shades, from 37s. 6d.

Orders received for the erection of Public, Church, or Turret Clocks, of any size or complication, in any part of the Kingdom. PUBLIC NOTICE is invited to the character of the stock at the well-known Manufactory. The wholesale trade is now declined, to allow of undivided attention to the retail friends of the Establishment, who will henceforth be supplied at the trade prices, careful regard being observed in all transactions to the high and long-maintained reputation of the house.

Best Work Only—Trade Prices—Delivered Free.

ARNOLD, WATCHMAKER,

9 and 60, RED LION STREET, HOLBORN, LONDON.

**INFANT'S DENTITION.**—Mrs. JOHNSON'S AMERICAN SOOTHING SYRUP.—This efficacious Remedy has been in general use for upwards of Thirty Years, and has preserved numerous Children when suffering from Convulsions arising from painful Dentition. As soon as the Syrup is rubbed on the gums the child will be relieved, the gums cooled, and the inflammation reduced. It is as innocent as efficacious, tending to produce the Teeth with ease; and so pleasant that no child will refuse to let its gums be rubbed with it. Parents should be very particular to ask for Johnson's American Soothing Syrup, and to notice that the names of BARCLAY and SONS, 95, FARRINGTON-STREET LONDON (to whom Mrs. Johnson has sold the recipe), are on the stamp affixed to each bottle.—Price 2s. 9d. per bottle.

**DR. KING'S SARSAPARILLA COCOA.**  
—This is a most valuable course of Sarsaparilla, this Cocoa will be found an excellent beverage, instead of tea or coffee (which is a most injurious system, and prevent medicine, particularly in the case of the young, having its desired effect). Invalids, who are unable to take any other food, will derive more benefit from this pure Sarsaparilla, than from any other food, being made with true Cocoa ribs, and containing no other ingredients, and rendered more palatable, by the addition of a little Sugar. It is sold by all respectable Medicine Vendors in the United Kingdom, and by the Proprietor, at his LABORATORY, 10, HUNTER-STREET, STRAND, LONDON.

## CIRCULATION, THIRTY-FOUR THOUSANDS!

Published Monthly, price One Halfpenny, or Three Shillings and Sixpence per Hundred.

## THE APPEAL; A Magazine for the

People. Contents of the February Number:—War.—Facts and Feelings.—Our Cottage Home.—The Two Deaths.—The Escaped Slave.—The Drunkard's Dying Child.—Family Secrets; a Hint to Wives.—The Old Atheist.—"The Night Cometh."—A Page for the Young: the Two Pictures.—"Never give a Kick for a Hit."—Earnestness in Religion.—The Bible.

This periodical is intended to serve all the purposes of a Christian Tract, with all the advantages, for interest and impressiveness, of a periodical. A considerable reduction in price made to Tract Societies, Congregations, and Individuals taking quantities for distribution.

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## BEAUTIFUL HAIR, WHISKERS, EYE-

BROWS, &c.—The most surprising, efficacious, and elegant preparation ever introduced for the growth of Hair, Whiskers, &c., is ROSALIE COUPELLE'S CRINUTRIAR. Thousands who were once bald, have now splendid heads of natural hair; and a still greater number who were once utterly destitute of Beard or Whiskers, have now these attributes of manhood in attractive luxuriance. Numerous similarly named imitations have been, from time to time, put forth, accompanied by testimonials, each and all as spurious as the article they represent. Persons who have been thus deceived will find that the genuine article has no parallel in the growth, curling, and general improvement of the Hair, Whiskers, &c., as also checking greyness. For children it is indispensable, forming the basis of a beautiful head of hair.

In Pots and Bottles, 2s. each, with full directions, through all Druggists and Perfumers, or sent free on receipt of 24 postage stamps, by ROSALIE COUPELLE, British and Foreign Perfumery Establishment, 35, Ely-place, Holborn-hill, London.

CAUTION.—Do not be persuaded to purchase any other articles from which the vendor obtains a larger profit. The GENUINE has the signature, "ROSALIE COUPELLE," in red letters on a white ground, on the stamp round each packet.

TESTIMONIALS, the truth of which may be ascertained from the persons themselves, whose addresses are given—a test which (so-called) "testimonials" in advertisements imitating this cannot stand.—Mr. J. J. Williams, 8, Lowther-street, Liverpool: "I can now show as fine a head of hair as any person, which I attribute solely to using your Crinutrial."—Mr. Thos. Mollard, Academy, Wednesbury: "It is restoring my hair quite to my satisfaction and joy."—Mr. Jos. Halley, Cumberland: "It surpasses everything of the kind."—Mr. G. Carter, near the Station, Pangbourne: "My head, which was bald on the top, and down the side partings, is now covered with new hair."—Mr. Henry Lane, care of Mr. Chapman, Golden Lion, Macclesfield-street, City-road, London: "A friend of mine, Mr. Harris, describes its effects as truly astonishing."—Miss Jackson, 14, Lee-street, Chorlton, Manchester: "My hair in one place had fallen off; it has now grown surprisingly."—Lieut. Holroyd, R.N.: "It has thickened and darkened my hair very much."—Mr. Yates, hair-dresser, Malton: "The young man has now a good pair of Whiskers. I want two pots for other customers." The above, and hundreds of others, may be seen at the Establishment.

May be obtained through all Chemists and Perfumers; but should difficulty occur, enclose postage stamps to ROSALIE COUPELLE, BRITISH AND FOREIGN PERFUMERY ESTABLISHMENT, Ely-place, Holborn-hill, London.

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With numerous Engravings, price £1. 6s. cloth gilt.

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BY THE REV. ALEXANDER FLETCHER, D.D.

Containing 730 Complete Services, each including a Hymn, a Prayer, a Portion of Scripture, and appropriate Reflections, being one for the Morning and Evening of every day in the Year.

Selections from Testimonials of Christian Ministers in favour of the REV. A. FLETCHER'S "GUIDE TO FAMILY DEVOTION."

I have great pleasure in bearing testimony to the worth of "Fletcher's Family Devotion." It is admirably adapted to accomplish the sacred purpose for which it is intended. The genial warmth of true spirituality pervades it throughout; and it may safely be recommended, both for the judgment and piety by which it is characterized, to earnest-minded Christians of every denomination. Great as its circulation already is, I should be glad to find it increased, and increasing.

Yours very faithfully,

*Henry Hobbes*  
Personage, St. James's, Hampstead-road.

Extract from a letter by the Rev. J. HARRIS, D.D., Author of "Mammon."

The conception and arrangement of the work are admirable; and as far as I have had an opportunity of judging, the execution of it equals the plan. I have read various parts of it attentively; and while I have not met with anything which I could wish to have been omitted, most unhesitatingly can I say that I have found much calculated to inspire and sustain devotion.

*J. M. Harris*  
Epcom.

I am enabled to speak with propriety and confidence of the real worth and admirable adaptation to usefulness of your work. I have used it much in my own family, and I can truly say that as I advance it grows in my esteem. You have rendered a most important service to Christian households by your labours, and I have no doubt that its circulation will be as extensive as your most sanguine expectations could anticipate.

*J. R. Apple*  
Liverpool.

Letters have also been received from the following Clergymen:—Rev. W. B. COLLYER, D.D., Peckham; Rev. J. MORRIS, D.D., Chelsea; Rev. JAMES PARSONS, York; Rev. SAMUEL RANSOM, Hackney; Rev. A. THOMSON, Coldstream; &c. In addition to which, upwards of One Hundred of the most influential Clergymen of America have testified, by letter, their high commendation of the excellence and great utility of the above-named Work.

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THE great and invariable success of Sir William Burnett's Patent Solution, in Preserving Timber, &c., from Rot, and in arresting the Decomposition of Animal and Vegetable Matters, soon led to its general application as an Antiseptic or Disinfecting Agent; and, for the last eight years, it has been in general use, with a success and public benefit truly marvellous, for the Disinfection of Sick Rooms, Clothing, Linen, &c.; the Prevention of Contagion; the Purification of Bilge-water and Ships' Holds, Ceapools, Drains, Water-closets, Stables, Dog-kennels, &c.

It is now only necessary to caution the public against an imitation which, for the last month or two, has been advertised as an "IMPROVED CHLORIDE OF ZINC," and even recommended by selections from Sir William Burnett's own Testimonials.

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"We do not hesitate to give to this invention our unqualified approbation, and we strenuously advise the use of it to all those who stand in need of that protection, which they cannot so fully, nor with the same comfort, obtain from any other apparatus or truss as from that which we have the highest satisfaction in thus recommending."—Church and State Gazette.

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Price of a Single Truss, 16s., 21s., 26s. 6d., and 31s. 6d. Postage, 1s.

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The material of which these are made is recommended by the Faculty as being peculiarly elastic and compressible, and the best invention for giving efficient and permanent support in all cases of WEAKNESS, and swelling of the LEGS, VARICOSE VEINS, SPRAINS, &c. It is porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and is drawn on like an ordinary stocking. Price from 7s. 6d. to 16s. each. Postage 6d.

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A superficial survey of it ["A Guide to Family Devotion"] is sufficient to manifest that its plan is the most complete of any with which I am acquainted, embracing everything which the service of the family altar requires, or admits of; while its execution is also such as to entitle it to commendation, and secure for it the circulation and use which it deserves.  
*J. S. Guiness*  
Birmingham.

I consider it a vast advantage to persons who begin house-keeping, if unaccustomed to extemporaneous prayer, to have such a help to devotion as your work affords. Many, especially females, have felt considerable difficulty in conducting family worship, for want of a selection of Scriptures adapted to family reading; this difficulty your work meets, and cannot but be appreciated by a large class of the Christian community. The work appears to me to be executed devotionally, which, in my opinion, is a strong recommendation to its excellency. With many sincere wishes for its success,  
*J. S. Guiness*  
Bury  
Chapel House.

On examination, I am much pleased with it ["A Guide to Family Devotion,"] and feel, when I am called to leave my family, that I leave for its use a good substitute behind me.  
*J. Binsley*  
Weigh House.

The evangelical strain of the prayers gives them an advantage over most other forms which have been published for families: I mean not only the savour of evangelical feeling and motive with which they are imbued, but the frequent addresses which are intermingled to each Divine Person of the Triune Jehovah. I trust that your labours will lead many families to a practical use and enjoyment of the glorious privileges of the Gospel.

*Isaac Brad*  
Late Vicar of St. Stephen's, Coleman-street.

I feel it right to express my opinion that the plan is excellent, and that the execution of the plan is judicious, and well adapted to its purpose, as an aid to the great duty and blessing of family, conjugal, and secret worship.  
*Agnes Smith*  
Homerton.



## THE LATE MR. WILLIAM GEORGE

POCOCK.—On Tuesday, the 2nd instant, a meeting of the friends of the late Mr. W. G. Pocock, was held at the British School Rooms, Kingsland, for the purpose of opening a subscription for a sum of money to be presented to his widow in testimony of the respect and esteem felt for her late husband, whose unwearied efforts to promote the comfort and elevation of the working classes and in the cause of Civil and Religious Liberty had deservedly gained him a high place in the affections of all who knew him.

It was proposed and resolved unanimously that the sum of £200 be raised to complete the purchase of two houses partly paid for by Mr. Pocock, through the medium of a building society, realising thereby an income of £40 per annum. That mode of applying the money being deemed very appropriate, inasmuch as one of the chief objects of his useful life had been the formation of such societies, in the successful working of which he was engaged up to the time of his death.

The following sums have been promised in support of the effort contemplated by the resolution.

£ s. d.	Mr. R. Smith	£ s. d.
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Henry Vincent, Esq. ... 5 0 0	" Geo. Whincot ... 1 0 0	
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Frederick Clarke, Esq. ... 1 1 0	" Cranston ... 0 10 6	
W. H. Tyndale, Esq. ... 1 1 0	" James Bishop ... 1 1 0	
Working Men's Building Society ... 10 10 0	" F. Rogers ... 1 1 0	
Rev. John Jefferson ... 1 0 0	" Henry Rogers ... 1 1 0	
Mr. Eli ... 1 0 0	" Ransham ... 0 10 6	
Mrs. Eli ... 1 0 0	" Young ... 0 10 6	
" Engisch ... 2 2 0	" Samuel Prior ... 2 2 0	
" Symonds ... 2 2 0	" R. G. Whincot ... 1 1 0	
Mr. Hazel ... 2 2 0	" F. Baron ... 2 2 0	
" Atkinson ... 1 1 0	" Wright ... 1 0 0	
" Wickham ... 1 1 0	" C. Gilpin, Esq. ... 1 1 0	
" A. Friend ... 1 1 0	Mr. W. Lovett ... 2 0 0	
" Thomas ... 1 1 0	" Lowther ... 1 0 0	
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" Coulson ... 1 1 0	" Statham ... 1 10 0	

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BASS and Co.'s PALE ALE, 6s. per Dozen Quarts, 3s. 6d. per Dozen Pints.

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High-scented and Rich-flavoured Flowery ASSAM, reduced from 4s. 4d. to 4s. per lb.

Our CHOICE MIXTURE of the Best Black and Green Teas, comprising all the excellences of the richest and rarest productions of China and Assam judiciously blended, 4s. per lb.

OUCHAIN YOUNG HYSON, HYSON, and PEARL GUNPOWDER 8s. 8d., 5s., 4s. 4d., 4s., 3s. 8d., and 3s. 4d. per lb.

All these are of the prime quality and most delicious flavour. Lower qualities at proportionately reduced prices.

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Very excellent PLANTATION CEYLON, packed in Tin Canisters, fresh and warm from the Mill, 1s. per lb.

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A valuable, newly-invented, very small, powerful, Waistcoat Pocket-Glass, the size of a walnut, by which a person can be seen and known a mile and a half distant; they answer every purpose on the Race-course, at the Opera-houses, country scenery and ships are clearly seen at twelve or fourteen miles; they are invaluable for Shooting, Deer Stalking, Yachting, to Sportsmen, Gentlemen, Game Keepers, and Tourists. To be had at 39, Albemarle-street, Piccadilly, opposite the York Hotel. TELESCOPES.

—A new and most important invention in TELESCOPES, possessing such extraordinary powers, that some, three inches and a half, with an extra eye-piece, will show distinctly Jupiter's Moons, Saturn's Ring, and the double Stars. With the same Telescope, weighing only three ounces, can be seen a person's countenance three miles and a half distant, and an object from 16 to 20 miles; they supersede every other kind for the Waistcoat-pocket, and are of larger, and all sizes, with increasing powers accordingly.

Opera and Race-course glasses with wonderful powers; an object can be clearly seen from fourteen to sixteen miles distant. Messrs. S. and B. SOLOMONS, Opticians, have invented invaluable preserving Spectacle Lenses; immediately they are placed before imperfect vision every object appears clear and distinct, the most aged, defective sight becomes bright and brilliant, and is brought to its youthful, natural, and original state.

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